FBIS DAILY REPORT

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PLO OFFICIAL INTERVIEWED BY QATARI PAPER

JN171613 Doha QNA in Arabic 1330 GMT 17 May 79 JN

[Text] Doha, 17 May--Yasin ash-Sharif, director of the PLO office in Doha, highly evaluated the continuing Qatari aid to the Palestinian revolution, particularly from Qatari Amir Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani. He also lauded the strong ties between the Palestinian people and the fraternal Qatari people. He described Qatari-Palestinian relations as "strong historic ties which have lasted for 20 years, during which our people have gotten every possible support from this generous Arab people."

Speaking in an interview with the weekly Qatari paper AR-RAYAH, published today, Yasin ash-Sharif emphasized the Qatari aid to the Palestinian people has been both on Arab and international levels and at various international conferences and occasions. He said that the Qatari stand regarding the Palestinian issue is always firm and decisive and has contributed to achieving several things for the Palestinian issue.

Replying to a question on a possible comprehensive confrontation between the Palestinian revolution and the Israeli forces in southern Lebanon in retaliation for the recent escalation of fedayeen operations, Ash-Sharif did not rule out the possibility of a comprehensive confrontation, and he recalled the huge attack which the Israelis launched against the Palestinian revolution in March 1978. Ash-Sharif added that the Israelis have been attacking the Palestinians recently on a daily basis, using the most sophisticated weapons they have gotten from President Carter's administration.

Ash-Sharif stressed that the Palestinian struggle during this phase, in light of the recent meetings of the Higher Military Council of the Palestinian revolution, will be translated into various forms to cope with the size of the threats currently facing the Palestinian revolution. An example of this, Ash-Sharif said, is the recent military operations which the fedayeen have carried out inside the occupied homeland. Those operations were strong enough to cause great confusion for the enemy forces, which forced the enemy leaders to admit they are helpless and unable to control Palestinian military activities inside the occupied territories.

Talking about Sa'd Haddad's secessionist movement in southern Lebanon, Ash-Sharif said: This is a new Israeli occupation of Arab land; Haddad's role is but a mask and a cover for the Israeli occupation.

About the consequences of Haddad's movement, Ash-Sharif said: This movement is only another link in the serious circumstances surrounding the Palestinian revolution. Haddad and his gang are a Zionist military group occupying a part of Arab land in southern Lebanon.

Commenting on the Baghdad summit resolutions, Ash-Sharif said that the resolutions are a painful slap in the face of U.S. policy, which sponsored and participated in the signing of the capitulatory Egyptian-Zionist treaty. These resolutions will definitely strengthen our ranks vis-a-vis the U.S.-Zionist onslaught which not only threatens Egypt but the entire Arab world as well.

He added that the Baghdad summit resolutions did not aim at isolating Egypt from the Arab world but at safeguarding Egypt's Arabism.

Ash-Sharif also underlined the need to further stick by the inalienable Arab rights, to further strengthen the Arabs' steadfastness and confrontation and to mobilize all the Arab nation's capabilities to serve the battle against the aggression.

Ash-Sharif said that the U.S. administration is behind the Camp David accords and the Egyptian-Zionist treaty which has completely disavowed the Arab rights, particularly those of the Palestinian people.

Ash-Sharif accused the U.S. administration of trying to fragment the Arab ranks by adopting a policy hostile to the entire Arab nation. He also accused the United States of isolating the biggest Arab country from the rest of the Arab world and noted that U.S. policy will only increase Zionist enemy arrogance, this enemy which is determined to stick to its aggressive stand and continue to reject all UN resolutions and public opinion appeals.

Asked about the Palestinian revolution's expectations of developments that might arise in Jordan and the impact of this on the Palestinian revolution's efficiency, Ash-Sharif said: The current Jordanian stand creates great satisfaction since it is in accordance with the line drawn up at the Baghdad summit.

Ash-Sharif added that the current Jordanian-Palestinian coordination is actively proceeding "and will continue to develop, taking into consideration that the results of this coordination will absolutely be in favor of the Palestinian cause and will serve the interests of the Palestinian-Jordanian peoples." Ash-Sharif added: We are working together in order to build new ground for Jordanian-Palestinian relations so we can continue our struggle and keep in direct contact with the masses inside the occupied territories in order to support their heroic and bold steadfastness. The Rabat summit resolutions are clear and straightforward to this effect. We can establish good relations with Jordan based on the Rabat summit's resolutions, particularly since Jordan is completely committed to these resolutions.

Asked about the dimensions of the current U.S. role in the Arab homeland and President Carter's invitation to the PLO to accept UN Resolution 242, Ash-Sharif said: The whole U.S. stand is in favor of the Zionist enemy and will continue to be biased and disregard the rights of the Arab nation. The U.S. administration will continue to ignore its interests in the Arab world and its relations with the Arab countries.

He added that this hostile U.S. role does not qualify the United States to play the role of a mediator. "We frankly reject such mediation."

About President Carter's invitation to the PLO to accept UN Resolution 242, Ash-Sharif reiterated what Yasir 'Arafat had earlier stressed that the United States is trying to set an ambush for us so it can topple us and shake our people's confidence in this giant revolution.

Concluding, Ash-Sharif reaffirmed that the Palestinian revolution will destroy this U.S.-Zionist trap. He said: Our cause, rights and struggle are much bigger and greater than the whole world's decisions. The only decision that we kneel to is the decision to continue fighting. It is the decision which is made by our revolutionaries and not by the U.S. computer.

PLO SOURCE REFUTES EGYPTIAN PREMIER'S STATEMENT ON GULF AID

JN171044 Doha QNA in Arabic 0900 GMT 17 May 79 JN

[Text] Doha, 17 May--A high-level PLO official source has refuted the Egyptian prime minister's allegations that the Arab oil countries have not given any support to the Palestinian revolution.

In a statement published here today in the AL-'ARAB newspaper, the official source said that the Egyptian prime minister's statement is baseless. He stressed that the Arab oil countries have given and continue to give unlimited support to the PLO. He added: This support has always contributed greatly to consolidating our steadfastness and increasing our combat efficiency.

He added that the Palestinian revolution appreciates the role of the Arab oil countries, particularly that of the gulf states, in supporting the Palestinian revolution in all fields.

The Palestinian official source, whose name and title were not disclosed, explained that the oil countries continue to increase their commitments toward us. He said: Any attempt to damage our cohesiveness with the Arab oil countries is doomed to failure. He stressed that the Palestinian revolution's relations with the Arab oil countries are solid and strong, and can survive all fabrications and allegations.

DPRK LEADER CABLES SUPPORT TO 'ARAFAT

JN171433 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 1115 GMT 17 May 79 JN

[Text of cable received on 16 May by Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces, from Kim Il-song, president of the DPRK, on the occasion of the Week of Solidarity With the Palestinian People]

[Text] Brother Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces: On the occasion of the Week of Solidarity With the Palestinian People, it gives me great pleasure to send greetings of struggle on my behalf and on behalf of the government and people to you, the PLO, the Palestinian people and the struggling Palestinian fedayeen.

The people of Korea declare their firm solidarity with the people of Palestine, who are struggling against imperialism and Zionism to obtain their national rights, regain their usurped homeland and establish their independent state.

I take the opportunity to wish you and the Palestinian people more triumph in your holy issue of liberating Palestine. The solidarity of struggle that links the Korean and Palestinian peoples in their mutual struggle against imperialism will continuously strengthen and develop.

UAE FOREIGN MINISTER HOLDS TALKS WITH FATAH LEADER

JN171339 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1250 GMT 17 May 79 JN

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 17 May--UAE Foreign Minister Ahmad Khalifah as-Suwaydi met at noon today with Salah Khalaf, alias Abu Iyad, member of the Fatah movement Central Committee, who is currently visiting the UAE.

Foreign Minister as-Suwaydi and Abu Iyad reviewed the fraternal relations between the UAE and the PLO and discussed recent developments in southern Lebanon.

PLO'S QADDUMI MAKES STATEMENT ON AUTONOMY

JN171555 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1445 GMT 17 May 79 JN

[Text] Tunis, 17 May--Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, has declared that the "conspiracy of the autonomy cannot be implemented easily."

In a statement to INA here today, Qaddumi described this conspiracy as a "new crime arising from the Camp David plot to divide the Palestinian people."

Qaddumi said these plans which the traitorous As-Sadat regime, in alliance with the Zionist enemy, is trying to impose on our people will be categorically rejected. Qaddumi warned against any attempt to represent the Palestinian people in this regard.

Qaddumi said that traitor As-Sadat represents himself only and that there is no side which can represent the Palestinian people except the PLO.

Qaddumi said the PLO will confront these plans by supporting the Palestinian Arab people in the occupied areas.

Qaddumi asserted that the Joint National Action Charter between Iraq and Syria is a practical step toward strengthening the intrinsic Arab power. He said the charter came at a serious phase in the Arab nation's struggle to confront the new imperialist-Zionist plotting.

Qaddumi explained that all Arab revolutionary forces support such rapprochement because it contributes to consolidating their struggle and is the cornerstone for any victory which these forces might achieve.

'ARAFAT ADDRESSES DAMASCUS TRADE UNION CONFERENCE

JN180820 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 18 May 79 JN

[Text] Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman, delivered a speech yesterday at the concluding session of the third International Trade Union Conference of Solidarity With the Workers and People of Palestine.

'Arafat said: I am happy to meet with you in beloved Syria, the throbbing heart of Arabism. Syria is shouldering the burden of the struggle and of steadfastness now that the western front has been temporarily removed from our Arab nation by traitor As-Sadat's regime. 'Arafat added: Syria is now shouldering the burden of confrontation and struggle against imperialism and Zionism and their agents in the Arab area. The latter want to subjugate the Arab nation and bring it under imperialist and U.S. influence. 'Arafat stressed that Syria and President Hafiz al-Asad are now shouldering this difficult responsibility and the burden of confrontation. 'Arafat added: I recall President al-Asad saying that Palestine is southern Syria. I replied to this by saying that Syria is northern Palestine. We are in the same trench fighting Zionism, imperialism and colonialism until victory is achieved.

Referring to what was said when As-Sadat paid his treasonous visit to Jerusalem--that the fate of this area has been sealed--'Arafat said: Those who pushed As-Sadat toward the capitulation they wanted to impose on the Arab area believed that the way was clear. However, the Tripoli, Algiers and Damascus steadfastness and confrontation conferences stressed some important facts.

They stressed that free men in the Arab homeland reject submission and capitulation, and that they refuse to hand this area over to imperialist monopolies. 'Arafat stressed that the current dark ages in Egypt will end soon, and Egypt's star will rise again. Let As-Sadat, who has signed the agreement of treason and who wants this nation to submit and capitulate, be aware of this. This Arab nation says no to capitulation and submission; this Arab nation says Yes to struggle until victory is achieved.

'Arafat stressed that the Syrian-Iraqi rapprochement, the Syrian-Iraqi Joint National Action Charter and the Baghdad conference represent a strategic turning point in confronting the conspiracy and have dealt another blow to the conspirators.

Referring to U.S. pressures and threats against the Arab nation, which has refused to submit and capitulate, 'Arafat said: Our Arab land cannot be tampered with. We will fight for our existence and for everything that is progressive, free and honest.

Commenting on the aggression against Lebanon, 'Arafat said: The objective of this aggression is to strike at the Palestinian revolution and the nationalist movement. They want to deal blows to Syria and embarrass it through Lebanon. They want to deal blows to the Syrian-Iraqi rapprochement and the Arab solidarity that emerged in Baghdad. 'Arafat stressed that what is taking place in our area is not directed only against the Palestinian people or the Lebanese or Syrian people. It is directed against everything that is progressive and free. We are struggling for peace based on justice and freedom--a just peace for the Palestinian people that will guarantee the right to return to their homeland and the right to self-determination as spelled out by the humane laws in the UN Charter.

'Arafat said: We reject the peace they are speaking of and are trying to impose. No Palestinian revolutionary will accept this logic. We will oppose this peace, because peace can only be achieved by the will of the Palestinian fighters and that of our Arab nation, which extends from the ocean to the gulf.

UAE

OIL PRICES INCREASED EFFECTIVE 17 MAY

JN180803 Abu Dhabi EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0755 GMT 18 May 79 JN

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 18 May--The EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY has learned from a well-informed source that the UAE raised the market price of its oil by 80 cents a barrel effective yesterday, 17 May 1979.

This measure conforms with the new realities on the oil market and with the price increases other OPEC countries have adopted. This decision has been communicated to the oil companies.

YEMEN--PDRY

LABOR MINISTER RETURNS FROM YAR, COMMENTS ON TALKS

LD171718 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 17 May 79 LD/EA

[Text] The Economic and Financial Committee of the southern part of the homeland, led by brother Nasr Nasir 'Ali, member of the Central Committee and minister of labor and civil service, returned to Aden this morning after participating in the business of the first session for 1979 of the Joint Economic and Financial Committee of the two parts of the homeland. The meeting was held in San'a'.

In a statement to the ADEN NEWS AGENCY, brother Nasr Nasir 'Ali said that the joint committee (?discussed) issues already agreed upon and issues still outstanding. He said that after assessing previous meetings the committee found that it had covered all economic and financial spheres and that the outstanding questions were less than one percent of issues agreed upon [sentence as heard]. Brother Nasr Nasir 'Ali said that agreement was reached on several outstanding issues connected with agricultural cooperation. He said the discussions were held in a brotherly atmosphere, with complete frankness and in a strong spirit of eagerness to reach agreement so as to fulfill the noble goal of our people, the accomplishment of Yemeni unity.

DEFENSE MINISTER 'ALI REJECTS DISSOLUTION OF AMIO

NC171625 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1512 GMT 17 May 79 NC

[Official statement issued 17 May by Egyptian Defense Minister Lt Gen Kamal Hasan 'Ali in his capacity as member of the Arab Military Industries Organization, AMIO--read by announcer]

[Text] Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, chairman of the Higher Committee of the AMIO's present session, issued a statement dated 13 May 1979. In this statement, Prince Sultan said that in view of the circumstances through which the Arab nation has passed--circumstances which culminated in the resolutions passed by the Baghdad conference which express the spirit of Arab solidarity vis-a-vis the Arab Republic of Egypt's unilateral de jure and political recognition of Israel, and vis-a-vis the Arab Republic of Egypt's normalization of its relations with Israel--the kings and presidents of the UAE, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the State of Qatar, the partners of the Arab Republic of Egypt in the founding of the AMIO--hold the view that these circumstances conflict with the motives and objectives for which the AMIO emerged. Therefore, the will of these three officials is identical on ending the de jure existence of the AMIO effective 1 July 1979, and on forming a committee drawn from the four states to begin phasing out the AMIO. These three officials also stated that the chairman of the AMIO board of directors and its director general must suspend the AMIO investments budget and the budgets of the AMIO joint subsidiary companies.

The Arab Republic of Egypt announces that it categorically refuses to accept this statement. It refuses to accept this statement on the basis of the urgent need to heed the statement on provisions which must be observed in accordance with the stipulations contained by the founding agreement signed by the kings, princes and presidents of the AMIO member-states in April 1975, and also in accordance with the provisions and stipulations contained in the basic rules and regulations approved by the AMIO Higher Committee in August 1979 and endorsed by the governments of these states.

Therefore, we desire to elaborate on the following facts:

1. The peace treaty which Egypt has signed with Israel is not a unilateral reconciliation. It has been effected within the context of an overall reconciliation which all the confrontation states have been invited to join.

2. Up to this moment, the relations between Egypt and Israel have not been normalized. This is because the peace treaty and its appendixes stipulate that discussions should begin within 6 months following the completion of Israel's withdrawal from the Al-'Arish-Ra's Muhammad line.

3. The Baghdad conference is an illegitimate conference both from the perspective of the call which was made for convening it, and from the perspective of the resolutions it has passed. Consequently, all the resolutions which were passed at this conference are illegal and not binding on the Arab League member-states. These resolutions are considered interference in these states' domestic affairs and a usurpation of their will. Furthermore, the Baghdad conference does not express any spirit of solidarity. On the contrary, it reflects a rift and repulsion in the relations existing among the Arab states.

4. As far as Egypt's recognition of Israel, all the Arab states recognize the State of Israel through their endorsement of Resolution 242 and Resolution 338. This is in addition to the fact that the Baghdad conference resolutions, which we do not recognize, admit that the method for resolving the Middle East crisis is a peaceful settlement.

In view of all of the above-mentioned points, the Arab Republic of Egypt considers that the causes, on which the resolutions passed by the kings and princes of the three states are based, run counter to the provisions of the agreement on founding the AMIO. The Arab Republic of Egypt believes that the measure which the three states have taken clearly violates an international agreement governed by basic rules. Furthermore, the Arab Republic of Egypt believes that the three states have involved political considerations in a purely economic project. Furthermore, Egypt desires to explain that by making his announcement, the chairman of the Higher Committee has not taken into account the provisions of the founding agreement and the AMIO basic rules and regulations, from which he derives his powers and jurisdiction. He has disregarded the jurisdiction of the AMIO board of directors contained in the provisions of the articles coming under Chapter II of the basic rules and regulations. The chairman has also disregarded the jurisdiction of the Higher Committee, contained in the stipulations included in the articles coming und under Chapters I and VII of the basic rules and regulations. This is in addition to the fact that no meeting has been held of the committee since he assumed chairmanship in February 1978, and to the fact that Egypt had accepted the invitation which the chairman had extended for convening a meeting of the committee in Doha, Qatar, in April 1979, which the chairman then postponed for the third time. He has failed to set a date for its convening up to this moment.

This is in addition to what he said regarding the impossibility of convening a meeting of the Higher Committee because of political circumstances, and his transgression against the rights of the fourth partner in the organization, the Arab Republic of Egypt, in the need to submit the decision of the three states to the members of the Higher Committee. This committee must draw up the bases and measures pertaining to liquidation, as stipulated in article 55 in the basic rules and regulations, or the committee must be informed directly and form an opinion before announcing the statement of these states. He has thus violated the rules of the organization regulations and the founding agreement.

While announcing its refusal to accept what was contained in the statement of the three states and the measure taken by the chairman of the Higher Committee, the Arab Republic of Egypt holds these three states responsible for the consequences which will result from this measure. This includes the rights of foreign states which have signed documents of understanding with the organization, the rights of foreign companies which are partners with the organization in some of the joint companies or which have contracts with it, the rights of Egypt with regard to the losses it will bear as a result of this measure, the rights of Egypt with regard to the contracts it has signed with the organization, and the rights of the Egyptian employees of the organization.

Since Egypt has committed itself to fulfill its full share in the capital of the organization upon ratification of the basic rules and regulations, and is shouldering the biggest burden in financing the organization and the continued functioning of its companies, particularly the new projects--because it is the biggest contractor for most of the production of the organization's companies--Egypt will take all the necessary measures to safeguard its rights and the rights of the states with which the organization signed documents of understanding, as well as the rights of the states and companies which shared or contracted with the AMIO, and to honor the documents of understanding which were signed with France and Britain for the establishment of joint ventures with the organization.

Egypt holds the temporary chairmanship of the board of directors of the organization, and its director general is responsible for any damages caused to the organization and its companies or for anything that affects these rights as a result of implementation of the decisions and measures contained in the statement of the three states. These decisions and measures contradict the provisions of the articles of the founding agreement and the basic rules and regulations from which they derive their powers and jurisdiction. Also, the statement is not based on a decision by the board of directors followed by a unanimous decision by the Higher Committee. Egypt calls on each one of them to exercise his duty and carry out the tasks of his post on the basis of the rules of the founding agreement and the basic rules and regulations, and all other regulations of the organization. It also calls on each of them to carry out all plans, projects and budgets which were decided on and endorsed by the board of directors at its recent meetings, and to carry out the policy laid down by the Higher Committee and the decisions it took at its latest session, which was held in the UAE in February 1978.

Egypt also reminds them that the withdrawal of any member-state or even the withdrawal of the three states from the organization does not mean the termination of the legal existence of the organization. This is because the legal existence of the organization is fortified by the approval of the basic rules and regulations by the Higher Committee and by its ratification by the four governments in 1975.

Therefore, any one of the three states or all of them together are free to maintain or terminate their membership in the organization, provided this is done in accordance with the provisions of the founding agreement and the basic rules and regulations. They will have to bear the consequences of such a move. Also, this will not mean the termination of the legal existence of the organization.

Finally, while regretting this measure--which history will remember these three states for in the attempt to destroy the Arab arms industry and one of the hopes of the Arab nation--the Arab Republic of Egypt announces that the organization will continue to carry out its mission, and Egypt will continue to build the imposing structure of defense of the Arab nation with its men, funds, efforts and sweat, because this is its fate.

AS-SADAT TO DELIVER SPEECH AT AL-'ARISH CEREMONIES 27 MAY

NC170704 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 17 May 79 NC

[From the press review]

[Text] Cairo papers report that President Anwar as-Sadat will deliver an important political speech at Al-'Arish township on Sunday, 27 May, where he will be attending the official and popular celebrations marking the handing over of Al-'Arish and its reversion to Egyptian sovereignty.

The papers add that soon after his arrival at the airport, President as-Sadat will say a prayer of thanks, in which the Al-Azhar rector, the Awqaf minister and senior clergymen will participate. Later, President as-Sadat will say noon prayers at An-Nasr Mosque in Al-'Arish before the official and popular celebrations begin. A large pavilion will be erected in front of the Northern Sinai Governorate building in Al-'Arish, where the official ceremony marking the handing over of the town will take place.

'ALI MEETS WITH ZAIRIAN DEFENSE OFFICIAL

NC171040 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0930 GMT 17 May 79 NC

[Excerpt] Cairo, 17 May--Minister of Defense and War Production Lt Gen Kamal Hasan 'Ali received in his office today Brig Gen (Ayluki Monga), Zairian secretary of state for national defense and regional secretary, who arrived in Cairo yesterday on a 5-day official visit to Egypt.

They discussed military cooperation between Egypt and Zaire. The 30-minute meeting was attended by Armed Forces Chief of Staff Maj Gen Ahmad Badawi.

MINISTER OF STATE RECEIVES SOVIET AMBASSADOR

NC171459 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1417 GMT 17 May 79 NC

[Text] Cairo, 17 May--Foreign Ministry sources have informed the MENA correspondent that during today's meeting between Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali and Soviet Ambassador Vladimir Polyakov, a review was made of relations between the two countries as well as the situation in the Middle East.

The minister of state for foreign affairs, Dr Butrus Ghali, affirmed to the Soviet ambassador that Egypt's policy is firm and that it is willing to establish friendly relations with all the countries in the world on the basis of the policy of nonalinement.

FORMER ARAB LEAGUE SECRETARY CRITICIZES LEAGUE TRANSFER

NC171149 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0825 GMT 17 May 79 NC

[Text] Cairo, 17 May--Former Arab League Secretary General Mahmud Riyad has said that the biggest historic mistake committed by the Arab states at the Baghdad conference was the decision to transfer the league's headquarters from Cairo and to suspend Egypt's membership. He outlined that these two decision constituted a flagrant transgression of the league's charter.

In a statement published in AL-AHRAM today, Mahmud Riyad stressed that the Arab League itself did not fail, but that the Arab states had failed to support the league's activity in various fields and at various levels while it received blows from several states.

Riyad said that if the Baghdad conference had respected Arab legality, the Arab League in Cairo would have continued to function just as the United Nations in New York kept on functioning despite the crises which broke out between the United States and some UN member-states.

Mahmud Riyad outlined the reasons for his resignation and said that the rejectionist states dominated the Baghdad conference while others followed and agreed with them. These states aimed at isolating Egypt and harming the reputation of the Egyptian leadership by exploiting the Arab psychology in the struggle with Israel and by making the Arabs fear the unknown, should peace be made with Israel.

Mahmud Riyad added: Nevertheless, the Arab states had the opportunity to correct their concepts before the rejectionist state drew them along the road of no return.

He admitted having made a mistake in attending the Baghdad summit, but he had felt morally compelled to do so out of respect to the Arab kings and presidents.

He added: Nevertheless, I cannot explain what happened. At ad hoc meetings, I proposed that a few days after the Baghdad conference a group of kings and presidents should go to Cairo to meet with President Anwar as-Sadat for detailed talks on the peace agreement. It was suggested that the group include Saudi Crown Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, Amir of Kuwait Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad, King Hassan II of Morocco and UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan. However, I was surprised that this suggestion was leaked to some rejectionist states; they exploited it and presented another proposal for a mission to Cairo led by Shaykh Zayid. Shaykh Zayid declined, and this mission was later led by Lebanese Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss.

Mahmud Riyad said that the maneuver of the rejectionist states was a tactical one and had the aim that Egypt should refuse to meet with the mission, which in turn would enrage the Baghdad conference member-states against Cairo, as in fact it did.

Riyad said that he had outlined these mistakes to the heads of the Arab delegations to the league council meeting in Somalia and had told them: You are entitled to adopt a political resolution in relation to Egypt, but you have no right to adopt this resolution on behalf of the Arab League since you showed no respect for the league's charter.

Riyad also noted his discussion with Saudi Information Minister Dr 'Abduh Yamani when he reproached him for the league's failure to attend the Arab information ministers conference in Baghdad. Riyad said that he told Yamani: The meeting lacked the Arab legality of the league, and by your meeting you were destroying the Arab League.

Mahmud Riyad said that when he decided to resign he decided to notify Egypt first. He told prime minister Dr Mustafa Khalil of his intention to resign as an Egyptian who rejected and protested the Baghdad conference's action of suspending Egypt's membership. Firstly, he said, not a single citizen of Egypt would accept suspension of its membership, since Egypt is a great country which assumed a hig role and made unlimited sacrifices; and secondly, the Baghdad conference breached the Arab League Charter, departed from its scope and deliberately ignored it.

WRITER SUGGESTS SOVIET CHAIRMANSHIP OF PEACE TALKS

NC180700 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0635 GMT 18 May 79 NC

[Text] Cairo, 18 May--Leading Egyptian writer Tawfiq al-Hakim has suggested that the Soviet Union preside over the negotiations for self-determination of the Palestinian people.

In his suggestion, which the newspaper AL-AKHBAR publishes today, Tawfiq al-Hakim outlined that the agreement providing for the chairmanship of the negotiations in Geneva alternatively by the United States and the Soviet Union still stands. What happened at Camp David was merely a first stage for peace under the chairmanship of the United States.

Al-Hakim added that the second stage could be under the chairmanship of the Soviet Union in Geneva, and Egypt could take part in it if asked.

Tawfiq al-Hakim said: Such a situation would eliminate any inconsistency between Camp David and Geneva. What happened was the division of the comprehensive solution into two stages: one under the chairmanship of the United States and the other under the Soviet Union.

Tawfiq al-Hakim said that the comprehensive peace requires agreement between the two superpowers in order to guarantee the Middle East peace strength and continuity so that the whole area may enjoy its fruits.

CAIRO REPORTS SAUDI BAN OF EGYPTIAN PUBLICATIONS

NC132230 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 13 May 79 NC

[Text] A decision was taken in Riyadh to ban the entry of Egyptian newspapers and magazines into Saudi Arabia as of tomorrow, Monday. It is known that the facts about the situation, and especially Saudi Arabia's position, were conveyed daily by the Egyptian press to the Arab people.

AL-AZHAR ULEMA CALL FOR MUSLIM UNITY, DENOUNCE CONFERENCES

NC121729 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1549 GMT 12 May 79 NC

[Text] Cairo, 12 May--The ulema and staff of Al-Azhar institutions have affirmed their absolute support of President Anwar as-Sadat's courageous steps for achieving a just and lasting peace in the Middle East and safeguarding the Arab and Islamic rights. The Al-Azhar institutions' ulema have also affirmed that the peace treaty between Egypt and Israel is a blessed Islamic step, founded on the principles of religion, and paves the way for achieving a comprehensive peace and safeguarding the sanctities of the Egyptian and Arab peoples.

In resolutions adopted at their conference today under the chairmanship of Shaykh Rajab al-'Ayidi, director general of Al-Azhar institutions, the Al-Azhar ulema called on the peoples of the Islamic world to denounce the resolutions of the Morocco and Baghdad conferences, which split the unity of the Arab and Islamic nation--the unity which God ordained--and to "hold fast, all together, to the rope which God holds out to you, and be not divided among yourselves."

INA: OPPOSITION TO ORGANIZE WORLD CAMPAIGN

JN141508 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1345 GMT 14 May 79 JN

[Text] Beirut, 14 May--The grouping of Egyptian patriots abroad [tajammu' al-wataniyin al-misriyin fi al-kharij] has announced that beginning tomorrow it will launch a large-scale move that will continue for 3 months to organize a campaign of world solidarity with the National Progressive Unionist Grouping [NPUG] in Egypt.

Fu'ad at-Tuhami, the rapporteur of the grouping, announced in a statement issued at a press conference he held here today that the Egyptian patriots have indeed formed an international committee in defense of human rights in Egypt. He said that the situation regarding democratic liberties and human rights in Egypt is deteriorating day after day and is a source of great danger. At-Tuhami said that the grouping of Egyptian patriots abroad has sent cables to this effect to the World Peace Council, the International Jurists Union and several other international organizations.

The statement of the grouping of Egyptian patriots abroad says that the accusations made against Khalid Muhyi ad-Din [NPUG leader] about contacting a hostile power, have no legal grounds. They are an indication of the beginning of a general campaign of suppression against all the national democratic forces in Egypt which are opposing the peace treaty with the Zionist enemy.

The statement says that the campaign reflects the increasing public opposition, "which is greater and wider than presented by the regime in its sham referendum." The statement adds that the regime is detaining hundreds of citizens simply because they oppose the ill-omened treaty. The statement refers to the detention of Muhammad Isma'il 'Amir, the NPUB rapporteur in Al-Qalyubiyah Governorate, who told the court that he was exposed to torture and threats that his wife would be raped if he did not slander the NPUG. The statement says that the court released 'Amir but that As-Sadat had objected to the court ruling and 'Amir is still in detention.

FOREIGN MINISTER INTERVIEWED ON LEBANON, OTHER TOPICS

JN171258 Beirut MONDAY MORNING in English 14-20 May 79 pp 22-25 JN

[Interview granted by Iraqi Foreign Minister Sa'dun Hammadi to Claude Khury and Nadim abu Ghannam in Fez, Morocco "last week"]

[Text] [Question] Are you mediating between Syria and the Lebanese Front, or do you intend to do so, especially after the favorable statements Camille Sham'un has made about Iraq?

[Answer] We will not mediate between Syria and the Lebanese Front. It is possible that we will mediate between the National Movement and the Lebanese Front, but mediation between the Lebanese Front and Syria is out of the question.

[Question] So you are ready to mediate between the National Movement and the Lebanese Front?

[Answer] All we can do is announce our intentions and our readiness. If anyone were to ask us (to mediate), it is possible that our response would be positive. We are ready to play a positive role if the parties concerned ask us to. So far, we're still in the stage of expressing intentions.

I have heard Camille Sham'un's statement. It is indeed favorable. However, when I went to Beirut recently, I did not go for this purpose, and I did not even raise the question of mediation between Syria and the Lebanese Front. I was there on private business, but I did visit the president of the republic, the prime minister and the foreign minister. My object was merely to listen to them, get their views and be briefed on latest developments--especially since we were concerned about the Sa'd Haddad phenomenon and the developments in the south.

What the newspapers in Lebanon said, and what Mr Camille Sham'un said is all speculation.

[Question] When you visited Lebanon, you said the south Lebanon problem was an Arab problem. What, in your opinion, should the Arabs do on the military, economic and political levels to help solve this problem? What can Iraq itself do?

[Answer] We, of course, believe that the south Lebanese problem is part of the Lebanese problem, and it is our view that the Lebanese problem is not impossible to solve. It can be solved in an Arab context. The Arab countries can prepare a well-studied initiative, presenting it to all the opposing parties in Lebanon. This initiative would include a solution of the problem of the system of government and the form the Lebanese state should take. It would also, perhaps, include economic aid and Arab guarantees to eliminate the fears any of the factions may have.

The difficulty in this solution, in my view, is technical, not substantive. It is technical in the sense that someone must be found who is ready to take on this responsibility and give it the time and effort it needs to bring it to its conclusion. In other words, what is needed is someone to lead the initiative and conduct the consultations.

Proposing the formulas that might be acceptable to both parties is a technical matter, but it requires an effort. If a state or an Arab quarter can be found which is ready to exert that effort, I believe the Lebanese problem can be solved--for one major reason: Because all conflicting parties in Lebanon have now arrived at the conclusion that none of them can impose its point of view fully by military coercion. This is encouraging. It paves the way for a solution to the Lebanese problem.

[Question] If you were asked to exert that effort, would you do it?

[Answer] Me? If the Iraqi revolutionary government asked me to, I would naturally undertake that initiative. I am at the service of the revolution and the regime. If the regime entrusts me with that task, I will naturally do it.

[Question] All Arab contingents with the exception of the Syrian contingent have pulled out of the Arab Deterrent Force. Are you thinking of helping by sending Iraqi troops to stand by the Syrian force in Lebanon?

[Answer] The question of sending more troops to Lebanon is not being discussed. It will be discussed only if the Lebanese Government makes such a request, or if the Arab states agree on this matter.

[Question] How would you evaluate the achievements of the Islamic conference so far?

[Answer] In my opinion, it is a successful conference. I am especially pleased by the positive way in which Egyptian membership was suspended. This indicates that the Islamic states are fully aware of the dangers posed by the Egyptian Government's signing of a treaty with the Zionist enemy--a treaty in which it relinquished the Arab right to Jerusalem and the rights of the Palestinian people.

The conference agenda includes many other subjects, and the Iraqi delegation is emphasizing the need to spread Islamic culture and principles and to turn this institution into one which handles the affairs of Muslims all over the world--especially in Africa and Southeast Asia.

[Question] Now that Egypt has signed the treaty, how does Iraq believe the Middle East crisis can be settled? Would you be in favor of a return to the Geneva conference, or to the United Nations, or to the U.S.-Soviet statement on the Middle-East?

[Answer] There is a difference between the settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict and the political approach to it. The settlement, in our view, has always lain and still lies in the strengthening of the Arabs' own abilities. On the political and diplomatic level, however, we definitely believe that the best place the Arab-Israeli conflict can be dealt with in all its aspects is the UN General Assembly, which reflects international public opinion better than any other institution.

In fact, we have done a great deal in that direction, and we intend to call for a special General Assembly session to discuss the Palestinian issue again.

[Question] So you are not in favor of a return to the Geneva conference or the joint American-Soviet statement?

[Answer] Of course not. The Palestinian cause is not the property of a handful of states, or the property of the two superpowers.

[Question] How far have you come in the Syrian-Iraqi union effort?

[Answer] The process is coming along smoothly. There are no difficulties or obstacles to delay the union. Your question is inspired by the general expectation that the union would become a reality sooner than this. Arab public opinion wants any unity initiative to be well-studied, but at the same time it wants it to come instantly.

The Syrian-Iraqi union project is only a few months old. We are now exchanging views on the two basic issues: Party unity and the constitutional form of the new state. We are doing this by submitting studies and plans prepared by both countries, so that we can finally arrive at a common formula on the Arab and international levels. The operation is progressing smoothly. There is nothing to worry about.

[Question] How long will it be before union is achieved?

[Answer] It won't be very long. There has been no delay in the first place. As I told you, we've only been working a few months.

As for exactly when we will be ready, itis difficult to say, but it won't be a matter of years. In my view, it will be a matter of months.

[Question] Will the union mean total military, economic and social unity and one head of state?

[Answer] It will mean that the two states will melt into one new entity with one president.

[Question] Do you expect another Arab-Israeli war in the near future?

[Answer] From the Arab point of view, I don't expect such a war in the near future, but a war is possible from the Israeli point of view, since it is possible that Israel, in agreement with the United States and possibly with the As-Sadat regime, will try to exert military pressure on the Arab countries which have rejected the Camp David agreements. Thus, a war can be expected. Israel always follows aggressive policies and uses military pressure to gain its political ends. A war launched by Israel is possible, but I do not expect an Arab-launched war in the short term.

[Question] After the destruction of the Iraqi nuclear equipment in France, what action does Iraq intend to take?

[Answer] I would rather not answer that question.

[Question] How would you describe your relations with the Palestine Liberation Organization at this time?

[Answer] They are very good relations, which are normal relations. When misunderstandings occur between us and the PLO, the occurrence is abnormal. What is normal is to have excellent relations, and our present relations are excellent.

[Question] The news agencies have reported that the U.S. representative in Baghdad was invited to the Baghdad fair and they have suggested that this may signal an improvement in Iraqi-American relations. Is there anything to the report?

[Answer] The minister of agriculture, who is supposed to have been involved in this, was very surprised when he read this planted, inaccurate news item. So far, this report is false. Nothing of this sort happened at the Ministry of Agriculture.

At any rate, regardless of anything else, there has been absolutely no change in Iraq's attitude toward relations with the United States. Iraq severed its diplomatic ties with the United States for reasons which were announced at the time. Those reasons are still there, and there has been absolutely no change, not even a fractional change, in the question of relations. We will not resume diplomatic relations with America now.

[Question] Do you think relations may be resumed in the near future?

[Answer] Not in the near future. When a change occurs between Iraq and America, the subject will be discussed. In the long term, of course, relations between nations cannot remain severed forever. But in the short term, no.

[Question] How would you describe Iraqi-Soviet relations now, after the suspension of the communist ATH-THAWRAH newspaper in Iraq and the execution of several members of the Iraqi Communist Party?

[Answer] We make a clear distinction between our relations with the Soviet Union and the socialist states, and our relations with the Communist Party in Iraq.

Our relations with the Iraqi Communist Party are a purely internal matter, and we categorically reject the idea of there being relations between any Iraq party or faction and any foreign nation.

Our relations with the Soviet Union are good. They have not been affected in the least by the question of the Iraqi Communist Party. We are developing our relations with the Soviet Union, the socialist states and all countries that adopt progressive positions in the world.

[Question] Are there any new arms deals with the Soviet Union?

[Answer] Not to my knowledge.

[Question] Will there be any in the near future?

[Answer] That depends on the circumstances. We try to get our arms from all available arms-producing countries.

[Question] How would you evaluate Iraq's current relations with Iran? Is there to be an exchange of visits between the two countries in the near future?

[Answer] These have been defined by official announcements. In our view, current conditions in Iran are favorable and have our total support. Iran has adopted positive positions on Arab causes, and we find this a positive factor which deserves our appreciation.

After the Iranian revolutionary regime takes shape, we believe it will find that Iraq, the Arab states and the progressive states are the biggest supporters of the Iranian revolution.

For the time being, we have no plans to exchange visits (with Iran). However, we always welcome the exchange of visits with all countries in the world.

[Question] What do you think the gulf states should do to preserve the security of their region, now that the shah's regime is gone?

[Answer] The views we held before the fall of the shah's regime have not changed. We believe that relations in the gulf area should be built through the development of bilateral relations on the Arab level and the non-Arab level.

On the Arab level, we believe the Arab countries should draw closer together and move in the direction of unity. On the non-Arab level, our view has been and still is that there is no alternative to the development of bilateral relations between the states of the gulf. We do not favor any joint action grouping Arab and non-Arab states.

If those two things happen, there will be no cause for tension in the gulf.

At any rate, we are in favor of unitarian action among the Arabs in and outside the gulf, to maintain security in the gulf and elsewhere.

[Question] Do you expect the establishment of an Iraq-Syrian-Jordanian-Palestinian front to deal with possible Israeli attacks?

[Answer] What we expect is an Iraqi-Syrian union. The new state will definitely coordinate closely with Jordan and the Palestinian resistance, and with all the other Arab countries, to deal with Israeli aggression.

[Question] We are committed to the decisions of OPEC, regardless of our own views on the matter. We may have suggestions to make before OPEC meets, but whatever decision OPEC arrives at will be applied by Iraq, even if we do not approve of it.

It is my view that oil prices must keep pace with international inflation and the value of the dollar. Those are the two major factors, and we believe it is only fair that oil prices keep pace with them. If inflation increases and the value of the dollar drops, I believe there should be another increase in oil prices. This is the province of the Petroleum Ministry, of course, but I'm telling you what should happen in principle.

KUWAITI MAGAZINE INTERVIEWS FOREIGN MINISTER HAMMADI

JN171352 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1035 GMT 17 May 79 JN

[Text] Kuwait, 17 May--Iraqi Foreign Minister Dr Sa'dun Hammadi has stated that the establishment of Sa'd Haddad's ministate is one of the consequences of the ill-fated agreement signed between traitor As-Sadat and the Zionist entity.

Speaking about events in Lebanon, Dr Hammadi said that Iraq's objective in Lebanon is to establish peace in that fraternal country, end bloodshed, employ all potentials against the Zionist enemy and adopt a unified stand against Sa'd Haddad's sham mini-state, created by the Zionist enemy.

This is contained in an exclusive interview Hammadi granted to the Kuwaiti magazine AN-NAHDA published this week. Dr Hammadi said that Iraq's position on the Palestinian cause is firm and will remain unshakable. The fact that Iraq has agreed to the minimum reached at the Baghdad summit conference and at the Arab foreign and economy ministers conference does not mean that Iraq will be lenient regarding the fateful cause. He added: Iraq's position is based on the need to recover all the occupied Arab territories, to grant the Palestinian people the right to establish their independent state on their soil and to reject any tutelage over them. He stressed that because of its stand toward the pan-Arab issue, Iraq will not change its policy toward the United States.

Hammadi referred to the Islamic foreign ministers conference resolutions. He said that these resolutions condemn As-Sadat and his signing of the peace treaty with the Zionist entity. He explained that all the Islamic countries have denounced this treaty that explicitly violates the Islamic congress charter. This charter stipulates the nonrelinquishment of usurped rights or the Palestinian cause.

Hammadi concluded: No one can now say that the Muslims have not denounced the Egyptian-Israeli peace agreement.

EGYPTIAN TRADE CENTER, OTHER OFFICES IN BAGHDAD CLOSED

JN171314 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1245 GMT 17 May 79 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 17 May--The Iraqi Trade Ministry today requested the office of the Egyptian commercial adviser, the Egyptian trade center and the Nasr motorcar company in Baghdad to close their headquarters. This comes in implementation of the Arab foreign and economy ministers conference resolutions that call for boycotting traitor As-Sadat's regime. Iraq previously closed the office of its commercial adviser, the commercial department, and the trade center in Cairo and withdrew their employees.

PRINCE HASSAN COMMENTS ON ISRAEL TO FRG PAPER

DW161035 Bonn DIE WELT in German 16 May 79 p 7 DW

[Erich Kaspar dispatch]

[Excerpt] Amman--Crown Prince Hassan, the brother and most intimate adviser of the king, told DIE WELT this about Jordanian policy: "What we must achieve is an Israeli withdrawal leading to self-determination. On this point Jordan and the PLO have a common position. But it is obvious that the Arab strategy should not provoke massive Israeli retaliation. We are just as sensitive, in view of the fact that we are located 20 kms from the Jordan River and within the range of Israeli artillery, as are the Israelis, in view of the 1967 borderline, which ran just a few kilometers off the Mediterranean. We are perhaps even more sensitive, because we are facing a tested military power that holds fifth place in the world and has the capability to use atomic weapons. It would not only be suicidal but totally nonsensical were we to invite the strategists and generals in Israel to do what they are capable of doing."

FINANCE MINISTER COMMENTS ON TREATY, U.S. AID

LD171031 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 13 May 79 p 10 LD

['Abdellah Hamdan report]

[Excerpts] Jordanian Finance Minister Muhammad ad-Dabbas has urged the Soviet Union to exercise its right to support UN resolutions that recognize the Palestinian people's right to return home and to establish an independent state of their own on their land, and for total Israeli withdrawal from territories occupied in 1967.

The minister, who is currently paying an official visit to Kuwait, said that without an international balance, the world will suffer grave disturbances in its relations, and the Soviet Union is capable of creating such a balance.

About U.S. pressures on Jordan, with the aim of forcing it to join the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty, the Jordanian finance minister said that Jordan has kept the door open for dialog with all countries, in order to acquaint them with the truth of the problem and the dangers that might result from the separate settlement, which is not in harmony with the UN resolutions. He said that the United States is one of the countries with which such a dialog is being conducted at present.

Ad-Dabbas accused the United States of grossly failing to realize the truth about the Arab cause and its own interests in the area.

Regarding U.S. aid to Jordan, the Jordanian minister asserted that U.S. technical and economic aid to Jordan is continuing, and there is no indication that it will stop or be revised.

About the Arab aid decided upon at the recent Baghdad summit, he said that a number of countries have paid their shares as allocated.

The Jordanian finance minister called on the Arab countries to broaden the front opposing the separate peace treaty between Egypt and Israel, so as to include all the Islamic and friendly countries, and to take correct measures in order to abort and thwart the peace treaty and the self-rule plot as well.

The Jordanian finance minister described Jordanian-Syrian relations as very good and said that coordination between the two countries is making positive and good progress in all fields.

AD-DUSTUR CONDEMNS UNRWA DECISION ON REFUGEE SERVICES

JN180851 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 18 May 79 JN

[From the press review]

[Excerpt] In its editorial entitled "The Crime of Stultification and Starvation," AD-DUSTUR writes: Perhaps the best way to describe UNRWA's decision--cancellation of preparatory education in its schools and reduction of services to the refugees--would be to call it a crime that was preplanned by evil forces, which are against those who were evicted from their land within the hearing and sight of the whole world. This crime can in no way be attributed to UNRWA's financial deficit, because it is a deliberate deficit resulting from the refusal of several quarters, which have actually played a role in the Palestinian tragedy, to honor their financial commitments and to provide the Palestinians with the minimum needs for subsistence in the 20th century.

Surprisingly, this decision has failed to awaken the feelings of those who are speaking about human rights and civilization, and who are spending billions on destructive weapons. All these things are happening at a time when Palestinian children are being denied an education and medical services.

It has become more ovvious than ever that those who cause the Palestinians' misery are using UNRWA's financial problems as a political and psychological weapon to sow despair in the Palestinians' hearts, drag them into capitulationist solutions and force them to relinquish their rights.

AL-AKHBAR COMMENTS ON U.S. THREATS AGAINST ARAB GULF

JN160952 Amman AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 16 May 79 p 9 JN

[Article by Rakan al-Majali: "New Threats To Occupy the Gulf"]

[Text] The U.S. threats against the Arab gulf, on the pretext of defending U.S. interests, are being voiced again. Certainly, Arab oil was an Arab interest before it was a U.S. interest. Just as certainly, the strategic status of the gulf area, including the two parts of Yemen, is the cause for all these threats. The U.S. administration is incessantly voicing these threats in an attempt to foment confusion in the area, as well as in the Arab homeland. Perhaps the Arab feeling that these military threats of occupying the area are merely delusive is true, because the U.S. experiment in occupying Vietnam was the latest lesson.

The United States has wagered on the fragmentation of the gulf and the creation of conflicts. Hence, the war between the two parts of Yemen broke out at a very critical time for the Arab nation, as if it was direct a reply to the Baghdad summit's resolutions. Nevertheless, the Arab move, particularly the Jordanian-Syrian-Iraqi mediation and the constant Kuwaiti efforts, are all signs indicating that the battle belongs to the entire nation. The Arab success in ending the Yemeni war was a severe blow to the U.S. scheme. The U.S. scheme aimed at dividing Arabism in that and other areas, when the only prevailing trend in the Arab area should have been directed against the Zionist-U.S.-As-Sadat scheme, which opposes the nation's presence and fate. This scheme has been interpreted through the separate peace treaty and its concommitant developments--the self-rule plot and the entrenching of the Zionist entity.

When the PLO failed to engage the Arabs in the Yemeni war, signs of an acute conflict emerged in the UAE. Although these differences were both old and superficial, some people in the UAE made an issue of them. Were it not for the rapid Arab move and Kuwait's wisdom and endurance in unraveling the knots of the new differences, this issue would have been a new explosive point.

We are only reviewing the events that have taken place over recent months in order to say that there is no fear of the U.S. air and sea fleets, nor of the U.S.-Zionist military threats. The fear, however, lies in the U.S. attempt to find an outlet for disrupting the situation in the area. This is why the U.S.-Zionist organs are launching this suspicious campaign--the campaign of intimidation and sowing discord.

AD-DABBAS NOTES CONTACTS WITH USSR ON OIL EXPLORATION

JN161022 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0930 GMT 16 May 79 JN

[Text] Kuwait, 16 May--In a statement to the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-ANBA'. Jordanian Finance Minister Muhammad ad-Dabbas said that contacts are underway between Jordan and the Soviet Union in order to reach an agreement regarding the use of shale oil for power generation. He said that this type of oil covers a wide area in Jordan.

He explained that the Soviet Union and Canada have a good deal of experience in the field of extracting oil from rocks.

In another development, Ad-Dabbas said that studies of the Hijazi railroad project, which connects Jordan, Syria and Saudi Arabia, will be issued in the form of an international bid. He added that the $100 million project will be contributed to by the three countries.

BEIRUT RADIO REPORTS ISRAEL 17 MAY ATTACK

NC180611 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0540 GMT 18 May 79 NC

[Text] Last night Israel committed new aggression on the southern coastal area near 'Adlun, where its forces attempted to land. Clashes ensued between the attacking force and the Palestinian resistance. Losses are still unknown.

At dawn today an Israeli military spokesman admitted this aggression and that this operation was in accordance with the Israeli policy of striking against the Palestinians.

Yesterday, the town of Jawayya was subjected to Israeli artillery bombardment, where 25 shells fell in the outskirts, causing material damage.

Further Report

NC180916 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 18 May 79 NC

[Text] Reports from southern Lebanon today indicate that Israeli Naval Forces last night attacked 'Adlun, on the coastal road between Sidon and Tyre, shelling the area with artillery and rockets. Three Israeli gunboats took part in the 90-minute attack, which was directed against Palestinian positions and plantations near the town.

According to preliminary reports, one person was wounded and material damage was caused.

HADDAD THREATENS TWO VILLAGES IN SOUTH

NC171547 (Clandestine) Voice of Lebanon in Arabic to Lebanon 1515 GMT 17 May 79 NC

[Excerpt] Reports from the south say that the villages of Majdal Silm and Brih, which are situated in the middle sector, have received an official warning from Maj Sa'd Haddad today to the effect that they should join him.

VOICE OF LEBANON REPORTS ON SECURITY SITUATION

NC180615 (Clandestine) Voice of Lebanon in Arabic to Lebanon 0515 GMT 18 May 79 NC

[Text] Reports received in Beirut a short time ago indicate that the exchanges of fire in upper Al-Matn area intensified this morning when forces of the Syrian Social Nationalist Party and the Palestine Liberation Army attempted to attack some villages in the area following yesterday's attacks on Zighrin, 'Ayn at-Tuffahah and Al-Juwar. Several explosions were still being heard, but nothing is known about the losses.

In Furn ash-Shubbak area, the calm situation has been consolidated by the presence of joint patrols of the Lebanese forces. Normal business has been resumed following the recent incidents. These patrols continue to be deployed within the Furn ash-Shubbak and 'Ayn ar-Rummanah area.

The security situation has recorded some progress along the traditional lines. The situation would have been completely calm had it not been for intermittent firing during the night in the center of Beirut and in Ash-Shiyah and 'Ayn ar-Rummanah axes. Caution must be maintained against sniper fire in these areas.

Security reports from various areas indicate that it is feared schemers may attempt to stir up secondary problems in various districts at this time in order to hinder the legitimate authority's actions, following the reported success of the Lebanese-Syrian summit talks. Observers believe that schemers who previously sabotaged every security effort in various areas have now resumed their activity in some mountain areas, Beirut, and in northern and southern Lebanon.

In southern Lebanon caution and anxiety continue following the repeated Israeli Air Force flights over the area and the almost permanent presence of Israeli gunboats in the territorial waters between Sidon and Tyre.

POLITICAL MEETINGS HELD ON CABINET RESIGNATION

NC171846 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 17 May 79 NC

[Text] Political meetings held today were like feelers or attempts to probe positions on the first day after the resignation of the Cabinet. It can be said that priority will, of course, be given to the formation of a Cabinet that will constitute the start of national detente. This is why the Cabinet resigned. The general view primarily favors the formation of such a Cabinet. It does not favor any conditions which may hinder this, in view of the circumstances through which the country is passing.

However, if it becomes clear that the formation of the Cabinet, which constitutes the start of detente, is still impossible and the divisive factors still exist, it is natural that attention will turn to the formation of a Cabinet of neutral figures.

Until a clear idea of inclinations and positions crystallizes, after the resignation of the Cabinet has become a fact, the contacts and meetings currently taking place--contacts and meetings that do not have a formal character--will do much to shorten the future negotiations. Perhaps they will even cause formal consultations to focus on what is feasible and on what Lebanon's interest requires at this stage.

JORDANIAN SENATE SPEAKER ARRIVES IN DAMASCUS

JN171400 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 17 May 79 JN

[Text] Bahjat at-Talhuni, speaker of the Senate, arrived in Damascus today on a 2-day visit to Syria. During the visit, At-Talhuni will meet with Mahmud Hadid, speaker of the Syrian People's Assembly, and Khalid al-Fahum, speaker of the Palestine National Council.

In a statement to the JNA correspondent in Damascus, At-Talhuni said that he will hold talks with the speakers of the Syrian People's Assembly and the Palestine National Council on a number of parliamentary issues, and on the role of Arab parliaments under current conditions. At-Talhuni added that Arab parliaments should act according to the resolutions adopted by the Baghdad summit conference so that the Arab parliamentary march will be in harmony with the pan-Arab march as laid down by the Arab leaders at the Baghdad summit conference. At-Talhuni added that he will also discuss issues to be raised by the Arab Parliamentary Union Council scheduled to be held in Tunis on 14 June. The most important of these subjects is the role of Arab parliamentarians in strengthening Arab solidarity against the Zionist onslaught.

CZECHOSLOVAK PRESIDENT SENDS LETTER OF SUPPORT

JN172148 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 17 May 79 JN

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad has received a letter from Gustav Husak, president of Czechoslovakia, in which he affirmed his concern and that of the Czechoslovak people over the disturbing situation in the Middle East. He also affirmed Czechoslovakia's unchanging stand in support of the Arab people in their struggle to liquidate the consequences of the Israeli aggression and said: We maintain the view that the only way to realize a just and lasting peace in the Middle East is through comprehensive settlement of all the Middle East problems with the participation of all parties concerned, including the PLO, which is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. The settlement must include the liberation of all the Arab territories occupied in 1967 and the recognition of the legitimate rights of the Arab people of Palestine, including their right to self-determination and the establishment of their state.

President Husak said that the Republic of Czechoslovakia abides by its principled stands and strongly condemns the separate treaty between Egypt and Israel because it is contrary to Arab interests, international law and related UN resolutions. The treaty creates instability in the Middle East.

President Husak said: We completely support the Baghdad Arab summit resolutions and your important personal contribution to the conference's positive results.

ALGERIA

BENDJEDID, POLITBURO DISCUSS ELECTIONS, DEVELOPMENTS

LD171441 Algiers APS in English 1000 GMT 17 May 79 LD

[Text] Algiers, 17 May (APS)--The FLN Politburo met yesterday under the chairmanship of Mr Chadli Bendjedid, president of the republic and secretary general of the party.

The work centered on the elections relating to the party and popular assemblies' basic instances.

As concerns the party, the elections will be held from 1 to 30 September for the cells, and for the Kasmate (District) from 1 to 15 October, 1979. The municipal elections will be held during the first week of December 1979, and the elections of Wilayate (Provinces) assemblies during the second week of the same month.

Besides, the Politburo examined the economic development of the country, and heard in this respect an expose of planning minister, who has received precise recommendations from the president of the republic concerning the Quinquennial plan.

JOINT STATEMENT ISSUED ON BELGIAN FOREIGN MINISTER'S VISIT

LD172144 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 17 May 79 LD

[Text] An Algerian-Belgian joint statement was issued today on the official visit paid to our country by Henri Simonet, Belgian foreign minister, from 15 to 17 May at the invitation of Mohamed Seddik Benyahia, member of the Political Bureau and foreign miniter.

The statement says that the Belgian foreign minister was received during his stay in Algeria by Chadli Bendjedid, president of the republic and secretary general; Rabih Bitat, member of the Political Bureau and speaker of the people's National Assembly; Mohamed Benahmed Abdelghani, member of the Political Bureau and prime minister. Simonet also has had talks with the ministers of energy and petrochemical industries; irrigation; construction, housing and town planning; and transport.

The statement points out that the two foreign ministers signed a consular treaty and a maritime agreement and their talks were conducted in an atmosphere of amity and mutual understanding. In the view of both sides, the talks provided a new contribution to the cooperation between the two countries.

The statement says that the two sides expressed their satisfaction at the level of good relations between Algeria and Belgium and affirmed their determination to continue and develop them in all fields.

The two sides noted the scope for Algerian-Belgian economic cooperation. In this regard, they discussed ways and means to speed up the implementation of this cooperation. They also agreed to exert all efforts to bolster and widen their cooperation in the fields of technology, science and culture.

The statement points out that on studying the development of the international situation, the two sides expressed their concern over the continuation of conflicts and spots of tension in the Middle East, the Western Sahara and southern parts of Africa, the lace of progress with regard to solving the question of disarmement and the extablishment of a new international economic system.

The two sides paid special attention to the grave situation which prevails in the Middle East and the dangers it poses to international peace and security. The two sides also expressed their belief that the restoration of peace to the area demands a just comprehensive solution based on the recognition of the national rights of the Palestine people, their right to self-determination including their right to have their own homeland and the complete withdrawal from all the occupied territories including Jerusalem by Israel.

The two sides studied the situation in the Western Sahara in depth and agreed that the solution of this political problem lies in recognizing the right of the Saharan people to self-determination in accordance with UN and OAU principles and resolutions. In this respect, the two sides expressed their satisfaction at the initiatives taken particularly by Mauritania and the POLISARIO in deciding to begin negotiations with a view to finding a just durable solution for the Western Saharan problem.

With regard to the current situation in the southern part of the African Continent, the two sides renewed their denunciation of racial discrimination and apartheid in every form. They reiterated their denunciation of the repeated aggressions against the African countries in the area and the maneuvers being made which seriously impede the implementation of the UN resolutions and charter.

The two sides affirmed their support for the cause of the peoples of southern Africa and their defense of their rights to freedom and independence.

The two sides denounced all the measures and actions aimed at distorting and impeding the efforts of these people for liberation.

They expressed their two governments' determination to work to bolster African unity and independence in accordance with UN and OAU objectives.

Detente was also discussed by the two sides which believe that detente should have a wider application thereby easing tension throughout the world. In this spirit, the two sides affirmed that the respect of the UN principles and charter and the declaration on cordial relations among nations is essential to eliminate the causes of conflict and the establishment of a genuine peace in the world.

On considering the question of the establishment of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean basin, the two sides affirmed the close cohesion between them, reaffirming the need [words indistinct].

In this respect, they decided to continue to follow this matter which directly concerns them and to work to consolidate their efforts to make an effective contribution to peace and cooperation in Europe and the Mediterranean basin.

With regard to the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe which will be held in Madrid in 1980, the two sides asserted the importance of the participation of the Mediterranean countries in this conference so that positive results could be attained in line with the spirit of the provisions contained in the final document of the African conference. In this respect, the Belgian side expressed its admiration and appreciation of the Algerian positive contribution and that of the other Arab countries bordering on the Mediterranean to this matter.

The two sides studied the problems related to the reorganization of the international economy framework. They believe the time has come to end the great imbalance between the developing countries and the advanced countries.

In this respect, the two sides recalled the need to create the necessary conditions for radically changing the international economic system, particularly in the fields of international trade, raw materials, foreign loans and industrialization of the developing countries. In this regard, the two sides affirm the special role that should be played by the United Nations in making a more effective contribution to establishing a new international economic system.

The Belgian foreign minister expressed his sincere thanks at the hospitality and great welcome he and members of the accompanying delegation received during the visit. He extended an invitation to Mohamed Seddik Benyahia to pay an official visit to Belgium. The invitation was gratefully accepted.

ASH-SHA'B APPLAUDS EGYPT'S SUSPENSION FROM CONFERENCE

LD171417 Algiers ASH-SHA'B in Arabic 13 May 79 p 1 LD

[Editorial: "Feeling the Bitterness of Isolation"]

[Text] Throughout the 10th session of the Islamic countries foreign ministers' conference in Fez the problem of Palestine and its capital Jerusalem and the Middle East crisis in general pervaded the conference atmosphere and captured the greater part of its attention and deliberations.

This was an expression of the sense of collective responsibility, particularly for Palestine and its capital Jerusalem--the common denominator that brings together the Islamic world with its various nationalities and different political trends.

The intensifying interest in the Palestinian problem also reflected the gravity of the stage through which the Arab and Islamic world is passing today as a result of the surrender of As-Sadat's regime and its alliance with the Zionists at the expense of the Palestinian people's national rights in their country and the rights of all Muslims in Arab Jerusalem.

Regardless of the conference participants' stands toward other issues that were very close to the venue of their conference--which were unfortunately ignored--the conference attached special importance to the problem of Palestine and Jerusalem, to Arab solidarity and to supporting the Palestinian people's struggle against Zionist occupation and the Judaization plans. We hope that the confering resolutions will not remain merely on paper.

Among the positive results that the conference achieved was the agreement to suspend the traitorous Egyptian regime's membership in the Islamic conference organization and all its institutions on the grounds that the peace treaty which the regime signed with the Zionist entity constitutes a serious violation of the principles of the Islamic conference organization's charter and the rules of its various conferences. The conference's condemnation of the Camp David accords and the peace treaty was severe and strong, and this shows without any doubt that, like all the Arab peoples, the Islamic world rejects and resists surrender.

Thus As-Sadat's regime, which allied with the enemies, has been isolated in the Islamic world just as it has been isolated in the Arab world. There is no room in the joint Arab-Islamic fold for the one who has sold Palestine and Jerusalem in return for a handful of unliberated Sinai soil.

In the face of this isolation As-Sadat went on to hurl insults at all the Arabs and Muslims and to describe whoever opposes his surrender line as "reckless, politically juvenile and mad."

In the eyes of the "reasonable" As-Sadat whoever criticizes him is "reckless"; whoever tries to draw his attention to the seriousness of what he has committed against his nation and the Islamic world is a "political juvenile"; whoever opposes treason and surrender is a "midget"; and whoever calls for the liberation of Palestine is "mad."

Is this not madness in itself? He alone is "mature," the "giant," the "reasonable man." He indeed enjoys a great deal of "maturity"--but in playing the role of a double agent. He is indeed a "giant" in treason and surrender without context. And certainly he is--in all circumstances--not in control of his mental faculties, otherwise he would not have turned himself into an outcast, cursed by present and coming generations.

As-Sadat's threats against the Arab and Islamic countries can do them no harm, since he who has no power cannot threaten. Such foolish threats could only reflect the foolishness of the man who makes them and his sense of the bitterness of isolation and of the dilemma in which he has placed himself.

LIBYA

NIGERIAN OFFICIAL ARRIVES, SPEAKS ON CHAD

LD172220 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 2015 GMT 17 May 79 LD

[Text] Shehu Musa Yar'adua, chief of staff of the Nigerian Armed Forces and deputy chairman of the Supreme Military Council, arrived today in Tripoli. He was welcomed at the airport by 'Ali at-Turayki, foreign secretary, 'Abd al-Majid al-Qa'ud, secretary of liaison, and Jum'ah al-Arbash, secretary of electricity.

Shehu Musa told a JANA reporter: We have diligently tried with the countries which took part in the Kano conference to attain a settlement to the problems of Chad. In spite of all the problems which have arisen subsequently, Nigeria and the Jamahiriyah continue their efforts to reach a solution to what is taking place in Chad. He added: We will never agree to any interference in the affairs of Chad by any foreign party.

AL-QADHDHAFI RECEIVES CHINESE ISLAMIC DELEGATION

LD172212 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 2015 GMT 17 May 79 LD

[Text] The leader of the Great First of September Revolution yesterday evening received a delegation of the Chinese Islamic association which is on a visit to the Jamahiriyah, and inquired about the conditions of Muslims and about Islam in China. The members of the delegation assured him that Islam enjoyed good standing in China and expressed the belief that the First of September Revolution is leading Islamic revolution in a practical and magnificent way. The delegation paid tribute to the help and support provided by the Jamahiriyah to Muslims and their issues throughout the world.

OIL MINISTER SAYS PRICE OF OIL WILL RISE

JN171823 Doha QNA in Arabic 1728 GMT 17 May 79 JN

[Text] Kuwait, 17 May--Libyan Secretary of Petroleum 'Izz ad-Din al-Mabruk has declared that the price of the barrel of oil will continue to rise until it reaches $27, the value of its energy substitute.

We said that OPEC will seek at its next meeting to adopt resolutions that will have a direct, retroactive effect on returning the profits reaped by the international oil companies to OPEC member-states.

In a statement to the Kuwaiti weekly magazine AL-YAQAZA, which is published tomorrow, Friday, Al-Mabruk said that the increase recently approved by OPEC at Geneva was very small, and consequently an increase in oil prices is still required--especially as the major oil companies are making fantastic profits as a result of the difference between OPEC's official prices and the actual price of oil in the markets.

The Libyan petroleum secretary asserted that the threat to occupy the oil wells will not be carried out, and that we have the means to deter it. He said that Libya is prepared to use its petroleum to achieve Arab interests, as was the case in 1973.

MOROCCO

IRAQI ENVOY DELIVERS PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE TO HASSAN

LD171340 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 17 May 79 LD

[Excerpts] This morning, His Majesty King Hassan II received in audience at the Royal Palace in Fez Mr Hikmat Ibrahim, member of the Iraqi Revolution Command Council, who was accompanied by Iraqi Ambassador to Rabat Mr 'Adnan Sharif Shibah and Mr 'Abd al-Malik al-Dilbi, head of the Arab department at the Iraqi Foreign Ministry. During the meeting, the Iraqi envoy handed his majesty a private letter from Iraqi President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr.

After the meeting Mr Hikmat Ibrahim told our radio correspondent:

[Ibrahim--begin recording] To sum matters up, I have been entrusted by Iraqi President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr with the task of delivering a personal letter from the president to His Majesty King Hassan II. The content of the letter concerns the continuation of consultation and the exchange of viewspoints on the important events confronting the Arab nation, especially after the treasonous step which Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat has taken. The measures which have been taken so far at the Arab level have been in proportion with the event and have to a large extent been able to encircle this step, but the measures which can be taken at the Arab level can still, in our view, be (?strengthened). [end recording]

Asked whether he has raised the Sahara issues in the capitals he had so far visited, he said:

[Ibrahim--begin recording] This issue was not discussed, since the task is devoted to follow up onepoint which is a grave one. In Iraq, we have always wanted Arab problems to be settled in a fraternal spirit and objectively and in a principled way at the Arab level. [end recording]

FOREIGN MINISTER ISSUES STATEMENT ON ISLAMIC CONFERENCE

LD171552 Rabat MAP in English 1224 GMT 17 May 79 LD

[Text] Rabat, May 17, MAP--M'hamed Boucetta, Moroccan minister of foreign affairs and president of the Islamic conference, stated in a declaration issued Wednesday by the Istiqlal Party's two dailies, AL-ALAM and L'OPINION, that "one can objectively say that the Fez conference recorded a total success on all levels because it allowed the Moslems to unify their position not withstanding their origin, race, colour and internal problems."

"The conference," added Boucetta, "was successful because when Morocco and particularly H.M. the king proposed to shelter the Islamic conference, the only target aimed at was the strengthening of ties among Moslems."

Dealing with the interest granted to the Palestinian cause, Boucetta declared: "The Middle East problem was set in its real context, therefore the Palestinian cause was considered by all the participants, Africans and Asians, as the heart of the problem and that no settlement can be reached without the settlement of the Palestinian question. For this reason, we consider that the conference was a great victory.

Replying to a question on the role played by Moroccan diplomacy, Boucetta stated: "Moroccan diplomacy spares no efforts to make Morocco and the Moroccan people's personality known. The Fez conference was for us a good opportunity to hold talks with the participating delegations to examine with them bilateral relations and to explain the facts regarding our national cause, that is our territorial integrity."

SOMALI PRESIDENTIAL ENVOY ENDS VISIT 17 MAY

LD171606 Rabat MAP in English 1231 GMT 17 May 79 LD

[Text] Casablanca, May 17 (MAP)--Colonel Abdalkadir Abdur Ahman Haj Mohamed, emissary of the Somalian president, Siad Barre, and minister of the mobilization and the organization left here Wednesday afternoon. During his brief stay here, the Somalian emissary delivered a message, destined to King Hassan II of Morocco, to Maata Bouabid, Morocco's premier and justice minister.

SUDAN

INQUIRY INTO IRAQI ACTIVITIES UNCOVERS PAYROLL DOCUMENT

LD171656 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 17 May 79 LD/EA

[Text] During its inquiries and investigations into the sabotage activities of the Iraqi At-Tikriti Ba'th Party in our country, the state security organ discovered important facts by finding all the documents concerning the subversive Ba'th organization, including papers detailing the body's financing system and the salaries regularly paid to members of the organization.

The payroll documents revealed that, besides their regular pay, recruits in the At-Tikriti Ba'th Organization received housing and transport allowances, as well as a sizable quantity of liquor which was distributed by the Iraqi Embassy in Khartoum before it was closed following the severance of diplomatic relations.

The inquiries and investigations revealed that the membership of the organization was very limited and that the numbers mentioned by the information organs of the At-Tikriti Ba'th Party in their propaganda on the size of their sabotage organization in the country were not realistic.

BRIEFS

NEW CHINESE AMBASSADOR--Sudanese Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Francis Deng met today with the new PRC ambassador to Sudan Han Yi, who handed him a copy of his letters of credentials prior to presenting them to the president of the republic, Ja'far Muhammad Numayri. Dr Deng and the new ambassador reviewed the Sino-Sudanese cooperation relations and other bilateral issues. [Text] [Khartoum SUNA in English 1730 GMT 9 May 79 JN]

TUNISIA

JOINT COMMUNIQUE ISSUED ON VISIT OF ITALY'S FORLANI

LD171552 Tunis TAP in English 1350 GMT 17 May 79 LD

[Text] Tunis, May 17 (TAP)--The joint communique released at the end of the 24-hour official visit Italian Foreign Minister Arnaldo Forlani has just paid to Tunisia at the invitation of his Tunisian counterpart Mohamed Fitouri points out that both ministers reviewed the main problems relating to the international current events including especially the Middle East and Mediterranean issues. The communique also says that the two ministers examined thoroughly all the aspects of bilateral relations and agreed that the delegations will continue the talks during the forthcoming weeks to search for the means likely to strengthen cooperation between the two countries and solve the mutual interest issues. Both ministers also agreed to establish a joint committee, at the level of foreign ministers, which will meet once a year alternately in Tunis and Rome. The communique concludes that the two ministers signed an agreement on non-double taxation.

The Tunisian foreign minister offered to his Italian counterpart a lunch during which they exchanged toasts. In his address Mohamed Fitouri expressed the hope that the Italian minister's visit will give an opportunity to "open new prospects for friendly and cooperation relations between the two countries."

As to Forlani, he pointed out that both countries' mutual interests join in a wider and more ambitious framework which is the Mediterranean basin one.

Finally the Italian minister paid a tribute to Tunisia which has been one of the pioneers of the revival and unity of the Arab world just like Italy which gave and goes on giving its full support to the European integration programme.

PLO OFFICIAL QADDUMI ARRIVES FOR TALKS

LD171606 Tunis TAP in English 1401 GMT 17 May 79 LD

[Text] Tunis, May 17 (TAP)--Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, gave homage, shortly after his arrival Wednesday in Tunis, to the support and aid granted by Tunisian officials and notably President Bourguiba and Premier Hedi Nouira, to the Palestinian cause. They made this cause, Qaddumi added, their personal cause and placed it at the first rank of their preoccupations in the international institutions.

Besides, Qaddumi said he came to Tunisia for talks with the Tunisian leaders.

IDF RAIDS, DESTROYS TERRORIST BASE IN LEBANON

TA180518 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 18 May 79 TA

[Text] An IDF force last night raided and destroyed a terrorist base on the shores of Lebanon. No casualties were sustained by our forces. The base, near the village of 'Adlun, 14 kms north of Tyre, was used for the training and organizing of terrorist details for strikes against Israel.

The IDF spokesman noted that the raid last night had been carried out in accordance with the policy adopted by Israel to strike at terrorist bases at any time and place it deems proper to foil their mustering for strikes.

Our military correspondent, Roni Daniyel, says that the raid was against a base of the As-Sa'iqah terrorist organization, a base which usually accommodates several dozen terrorists. That organization is thought to be responsible for a series of strikes perpetrated recently against Jewish and Israeli institutions in Europe. The raid last night was made from the sea. It began close to midnight and lasted for only a short time.

MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE ENDORSES BEGIN AUTONOMY PLAN

TA171559 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 17 May 79 TA

[From the Afternoon Newsreel]

[Text] The amended 22-clause autonomy plan of the prime minister has been endorsed by the 11-man autonomy committee. On Monday the Cabinet plenum will be asked to approve the plan. The vote in the committee's meeting was held on each clause separately and not all of the clauses were upheld unanimously. Our political correspondent Yosi 'Abadi reports from the prime minister's office where the meeting of the 11-man committee ended a short while ago:

['Abadi--live] The 11-man autonomy committee ended the marathon 7-hour meeting a short while ago. The prime minister brought to this meeting, the fifth of its kind, an amended autonomy plan consisting of 22 clauses instead of the 30 clauses of the original plan. The corrections in the plan were introduced following reservations made during the previous meetings of the committee, especially Moshe Dayan's reservations. Most of the amendments involve taking out the minute details dealing with the autonomy institutions so that the corrected plan touches on the principles of establishing the autonomy rather than on its daily operation. Ministers Weizman, Yadin and Hammer made remarks during the meeting. They disagreed with certain details of the program. At the end of the meeting, after the prime minister's summation, the ministers voted on each of the 22 clauses separately. All the clauses were endorsed, although some of them were not upheld unanimously but only by a majority. The six or seven disputed clauses include those pertaining to Israel's control of water sources and public lands. The ministers who were opposed to these clauses contended that it is unnecessary, at the very beginning of the negotiations, to get into demands regarding these details, especially as they are dependent on the source of authority of the self-administration. The clause stating that the source of authority would remain in Israel's hands, though the military authorities, was adopted unanimously. Also, the declarations of intentions, which are not included as clauses in the plans, were approved. The declarations in question state that a Palestinian state will not be established in Judaea, Samaria and Gaza, and that Israel will demand sovereignty over these areas after 5 years.

During the meeting Minister Weizman asked to be allowed to withdraw from the limited six-minister team conducting the autonomy negotiations. According to him he will not be able to contribute to this team. The Cabinet will decide whether to comply with the defense minister's request. The prime minister's plan approved by the committee today will be brought to the Cabinet meeting on Monday. This meeting will be a special meeting. The plan will later be reported to the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee.

Further Details

TA171904 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 17 May 79 TA

[Excerpt] Our correspondent reports that a harsh verbal exchange took place between the prime minister and Minister Weizman during today's meeting. Mr Begin told the defense minister that this time he will not allow erosion in Israel's positions in the autonomy negotiations as was the case following remarks by Weizman during the negotiations with Egypt. The prime minister also disagreed with the defense minister over the question of the IDF's representative. Mr Weizman said he is responsible for the presentation of the positions and plans of the IDF and the defense establishment and not just of the Defense Ministry.

As regards the autonomy plan endorsed by the ministerial committee today, our correspondent reports that the prime minister omitted several details appearing in the earlier plan, including details of the size of the administrative council of the autonomy authority, the location of this authority and the age of the electorate.

The plan that was endorsed consists of 22 clauses defining Israel's positions on the source of authority of the self-administration--the military authorities--the status of public lands and water sources, the responsibility for internal security, the elections to the autonomy council and Israel's rights in the territories during the 5-year autonomy.

AL-'ARISH PREPARES FOR RETURN TO EGYPTIAN SOVEREIGNTY

TA171618 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 17 May 79 TA

[Text] The 600 civilian administration workers who reside in Al-'Arish received severance pay for their service during the Israeli rule in a ceremony held today. Our correspondent Yosi Melman reports that the workers received pay increases of 180 percent. Some of them received up to 200,000 Israeli pounds. Similarly, the local administration workers received certificates, thanking them for their service.

More from Al-'Arish: The heads of the local Bedouin sports club object to evacuating the building they are using which is intended for the mayor under Egyptian rule. They have rejected appeals by the Egyptian governor and by the Israeli administrative personnel. Our correspondent Bassam Ja'bar says that the reference is to a structure which was used by the Al-'Arish municipality until the Six Day War. About 3 years ago, the Bedouin began renting it and have remodelled it.

Three inhabitants of the town have already announced their intention to run for a seat in the Egyptian parliament as representatives of the northern Sinai region. They will do so within the framework of the National Democratic Party, Anwar as-Sadat's party. One woman is among the candidates.

MILITARY EXPERTS ON GENUINE AUTONOMY FOR GAZA

TA171517 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 17 May 79 p 17 TA

[Uri Dan commentary: "Security Experts Propose 'Genuine Autonomy' for Gaza"]

[Text] "Genuine autonomy" in Gaza, with full cooperation with Egypt--this is the main aim of the security experts--in contrast to the program by Prime Minister Menahem Begin.

The idea is that the autonomy in the Gaza Strip should satisfy Egypt and allow it to achieve something for the Palestinians. Then the Egyptian pressure over the nature of the autonomy in Judaea and Samaria, an issue closer to Mr Begin's heart, will ease up.

The Egyptians claim, behind the scenes, that if Gaza Mayor Rashid ash-Shawwa and his colleagues continue their refusal to discuss autonomy as long as the PLO does not give its blessing, then As-Sadat will bring several Gazaites who do as he wishes with him from Cairo, to make it possible to implement the partial autonomy in Gaza.

This idea of the security experts, which is supported by the Americans, recalls similar stories we heard throughout the negotiations such as: "As-Sadat only needs Israeli words of concession on the Palestinian matter for him to have a 'fig leaf;'" or, "let us concede in Sinai, because As-Sadat does not care what happens afterward in Gaza, the West Bank and so on." These evaluations were proved wrong, but in the meantime they helped in the Government of Israel's "getting out" of the whole of Sinai.

Therefore the idea of a separate autonomy in the Gaza Strip belongs to the "tactics of appeasement," which Israeli experts, in the final analysis, are using against themselves. For after "genuine autonomy" in Gaza, the turn will come for a similar autonomy in Judaea and Samaria.

Therefore, it is not surprising that Mr Begin is trying to reject this idea. However, the question is, how long will he hold out against the internal pressure on this matter and the rivalry within his government?

LIBERALS TO RESIGN IF EHRLICH PLAN IS REJECTED

TA172047 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 17 May 79 TA

[Excerpt] The liberal Knesset faction meeting, which included its ministers, ended several minutes ago. Our correspondent Yoram Ronen has just reported that the Likud liberal faction has decided that the four liberal movement ministers will resign from the Cabinet if the Cabinet does not approve Finance Minister Simha Ehrlich's 5-year plan on Sunday. In addition, the liberal faction also adopted other economic resolutions besides the finance minister's plan. Our correspondent spoke with Energy and Communication Minister Moda'i and Finance Minister Ehrlich. [begin videotape]

[Question] Mr Moda'i, do you share the fear that the failure of the economic policy will ultimately be blamed on the liberal faction, whose leader is the finance minister?

[Answer] Yes, certainly. I fear this very much, mainly because we hold several economic portfolios, yet we do not hold any portfolio in any other national area. However, this bothers me even more because I think that even in these economic areas--even in these areas, which have been Israel's weak point since its establishment--we could have achieved a first-rate government victory, just as we are celebrating the peace agreement with Egypt.

[Question] Minister Moda'i, there were members of the faction who said that if the economic plan, or the economic measures, are not accepted by the Cabinet on Sunday, all four liberal ministers must resign from the Cabinet. Do you also share this view?

[Answer] I think that if an economic plan, which appeals to those ministers who will ultimately bear the formal, specific responsibility in the eyes of the nation, is not accepted, they should reach personal conclusions.

[Question] Including the energy and communication minister?

[Answer] There is no doubt about it and I am not even seeking the relief which I deserve in the name of justice and fairness because not only was I no partner to the resolutions and the implementation of the economic plan, but I had predicted their outcome by stating numbers accurately, and to my very deep regret my prophecies and forecasts have come true in all their severity.

[Question] Thank you very much, Mr Moda'i. Mr Ehrlich, several participants in this meeting of the liberal faction demanded that the liberal faction ministers resign from the Cabinet if the economic plan you propose--or perhaps even a more stringent one--is not adopted. Do you share this view?

[Answer] I would not say that they demanded that the ministers resign. Rather, the point was that the liberal faction is a partner with the Likud and the Coalition with 15 Knesset members, and its weight should also find expression in the Cabinet's actions and resolutions, and that we should not always be something like yes-men. [last word in English]

It is also necessary to exercise our parliamentary power in the Coalition, just like other parties do. I think that this will not find its expression. [end videotape]

SOVIET DELEGATION HEAD DISCUSSES RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL

TA171308 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 17 May 79 p 1 TA

[By Hayim Margalit]

[Text] "We do not want to participate in effecting a compromise which leaves Israel in the territories conquered in the war of June 1967. If Israel moves onto the road leading to a just peace and recognizes the legitimate rights of the Arab-Palestinian people, the Soviet Union will not hesitate to renew diplomatic relations with the State of Israel. The USSR position is known to everyone--we support the existence of the State of Israel in conditions of security and completely reject blows of any sort against Jewish civilian population as well as against Arab civilian population."

This was said to me yesterday by Aleksandr Bovin, a senior political commentator of Moscow's IZVESTIYA who is heading a delegation from the Soviet Union which came to Israel on 11 May to participate in the commemoration of the 34th year since the defeat of the Nazis in World War II.

The other members of the delegation are: Leonid Bernstein, currently director of a clothing factory in Kiev, former commander of a partisan group in World War II and former commander of an invasion unit which worked in conquered Poland and Czechoslovakia.

Yuriy Genshonov Gavriel, the dean of the faculty of translation of European languages in the (Maurice Thorez) Institute of Languages in Moscow.

Gennadiy Abdeyev, who works in the Soviet society for friendship with foreign countries.

The meeting was held in the "Israel-Soviet Union friendship house" in Tel Aviv and was also attended by lawyer Avraham Melamed, the secretary general of the friendship association, and others who helped translate the remarks from Russian into Hebrew.

Aleksandr Bovin said that the delegation had been very impressed by Beersheba, which is a modern town. Its streets are broad and comfortable. Tel Aviv disappointed them--grey, dusty and crowded. He was also impressed by the great number of beautiful women, including soldiers. ("Why should a beautiful woman need an 'Uzi?") The fields he saw in his travels also made a great impression on him--the modern methods of cultivation. The delegation visited several towns and hamlets, including At-Taiyiba and Qalansuwa, and formed bad impressions. No cinema, a small number of children's playgrounds and neglected schools. They said: It is not befitting a country such as Israel, which knew how to build a town like Beersheba in the wilderness.

The main point of the talk by the main speaker, A. Bovin focused on Israel-Soviet Union relations as well as on the USSR position in various international organizations, in which it gives unreserved support to the Arab countries.

Aleksandr Bovin said: "The inhabitants of Israel and its government must understand once and for all that there will be no just peace if the rights of the Arab Palestinians are not recognized. Just as in 1947 we supported the establishment of the State of Israel and support its existence today, that is our position regarding the Palestinians. As for our position in the international organizations, you must understand the logic in our position. We condemn Israel in the United Nations, but we will not lend a hand in expelling Israel from the organization. Every country has the right to membership in the United Nations. In our own way we are saying to the State of Israel: Change your policy and then peace will come."

(Loncharski) [not identified] said: "We, the Bolsheviks, are not waiting for love, we want understanding!"

As for the anti-Zionist publications and propaganda in the USSR, A. Bovin said: "Zionism has become a nationalistic movement which views the Jewish people as the chosen people. We cannot accept this and we condemn it. The Soviet Union is not anti-Semitic and anti-Semitic propaganda is forbidden. If an anti-Semitic booklet appears, I am not responsible for stupidities! Stupidity is a trait beyond class. You will find stupidity here just as you will find it with us!"

To my question: "Will further delegations be coming from the Soviet Union," A. Bovin replied: "Our delegation is here. If conditions improve, others will come. Change your position and our embassy will be here again."

Today, the delegation is visiting kibbutz Yad Vashem.

INQUIRY CONDUCTED ON WEST BANK MAYORS VISIT TO USSR

TA171424 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 17 May 79 p 2 TA

[By Dani Rubinstein]

[Text] It has emerged from an investigation by the military government that when the delegation from Judaea and Samaria left for Europe, it was not forbidden to visit the Soviet Union and so it is not at all certain that it is possible to take any measures against its members.

The members of the delegation are Ramallah Mayor Karim Khalaf, Halhul Mayor (Muhammad Malah) and the West Bank leftist leader (Basir Barguti). They asked to go to a congress of the peace committee (which is pro-communist) being held in Basle and the military government authorized their departure.

The congress was devoted to the "solidarity of the Palestinians" and they took part in it along with the official PLO representation headed by Rafuq al-Qaddumi. The congress was also attended by a RAKAH delegation from Israel. After the congress they accepted an invitation to visit the USSR.

The security authorities investigated whether the delegation members had committed a violation in going to Moscow and discovered, as stated, that their journey to Europe had not been restricted.

Inhabitants of Bi'r Zayt, who yesterday asked to cross the Jordan bridges, were returned to their homes by the military command post on the Israeli side. An order was issued in Bi'r Zayt closing several stores on the main street near the location of previous incidents with the Neve Tzuf settlers.

Meanwhile the military authorities are hesitant about establishing the permanent site of the Neve Tzuf settlement, after it was learned that the site intended for this is a forest defined as a nature reserve.

Hebron Mayor Fahd al-Qawasimi reported yesterday that the military government had forbidden him to go to Jordan. He had been due to go to Amman for a few days on matters concerning the development of the town.

It was reported last night from the military government that Al-Qawasimi would be invited for a meeting with the commander of the Judaea and Samaria District, Brigadier General Ben-Eli'ezer.

Red Cross representatives visited the refugee camp Al-Jalazun, north of Ramallah, which has been under curfew for a week. It was reported that the inhabitants of the camp had complained about the great suffering caused because of the curfew.

It was reported last night from Bethlehem that eight students from the local college, who had been accused of taking part in demonstrations at the college, had been sentenced to 3 months' imprisonment and 5 months' probation and a fine of 10,000 Israeli pounds (each).

18 MAY PRESS DISCUSSES AUTONOMY ISSUE

TA180644 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 18 May 79 TA

[Review of the morning press editorials]

[Excerpt] Some of today's papers discuss Israel's autonomy plan.

DAVAR praises the defense establishment and says that it presents a better considered and more logical approach than that of the prime minister. The defense minister's proposal to concentrate on the application of self-administration in Gaza, so long as Israel lacks partners for a dialog in the West Bank, will enable Israel and Egypt to form an active example of autonomy. It is, of course, possible to also postulate a different opening position, but there is certainly no sense in doing what the 11-minister committee did and postulate an opening position which even appears in the eyes of Israel's defense minister to be an option-closing proposition. If that is the case, how will it look in the eyes of the potential partners?

OMER is unwilling to comment on the deliberations in the Ministerial Committee for Autonomy Affairs, because the reports published are incomplete. However, the paper voices its view about the fact that the controversy is being bared before the entire world. The paper fears that once it is evident that there is a controversy between extremists and moderates, the extremist position will have hardly a chance, even if it is a majority position in the ministerial committee.

HATZOFE supports the approach of the prime minister and says that the NRP's principles concerning the autonomy equal, to a considerable degree, Mr Begin's plan, particularly where the source of authority and its real limits are concerned. The paper urges a dynamic continuation of setting up settlements in Judaea and Samaria.

NE'OT SINAI RESIDENTS REFUSE TO EVACUATE LANDS

TA180848 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 18 May 79 TA

[Text] This morning the military government of Al-'Arish instructed the residents of Ne'ot Sinai to immediately vacate the cultivated areas of the moshav which are located in the area due to be returned to Egypt. The residents received instructions to that effect this morning in an order signed by the military governor of Al-'Arish, Col Moshe Dehan.

Our correspondent Shalom Oren reports that the Ne'ot Sinai residents returned the order to the governor on the spot and declared that they would not evacuate the areas before the subject is finalized with them and before they receive other areas in return.

BRIEFS

SOUTH AFRICAN TOURISM OFFICE--The South African Government has decided to open an office of the Ministry of Tourism in Israel in view of the large increase in tourism between the two countries during the last year. South Africa will be the first country to open such an office in Israel. A decision to this effect was adopted during the visit by the South African deputy tourism minister, Mr Theo Burns. He said that the office will be opened in Tel Aviv this summer. [Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1530 GMT 14 May 79 TA]

MUSLIM WOMEN ISSUE 15-POINT RESOLUTION

LD171844 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 17 May 79 LD

[Text] Today is 17 May, the anniversary of the birth of Her Holiness Fatimah Zahra, may God's peace be upon her, the revered daughter of the Prophet of Islam. At the suggestion of the Islamic Republic of Iran Party, today was called Women's Day. Following this, this afternoon hundreds of thousands of women took part in marches through various cities of the capital along routes previously agreed upon. A group of the marchers also went to Tehran University and took part in glorious demonstrations on the lawns of the university. At Tehran University the messages of different social groups were read, and also a number of the women strugglers gave speeches. At the end of today's celebrations at Tehran University the 15-point resolution glorifying the station of women was read, as follows:

In the name of God, the most compassionate, the most merciful, here is the resolution of Women's Day. The Muslim women of Iran who devoted all they had for the sake of the realization of the Islamic revolution and thus manifested the qualities of Zahra through their actions, now on this day, which is the birthday of the most illustrious woman in Islam, announce their demands:

1--Now that imperialism has met with a military defeat in Iran we demand that by means of short-term and long-term policies with revolutionary methods and progressive programs, the hands of the associates and remnants of the corrupt regime be cut off from all the economic, political and cultural activities of Iran.

2--We Muslim women demand that as soon as possible with short-term and long-term revolutionary projects, based upon the progressive teachings of Islam, industry and large factories be nationalized; lands be distributed and nationalized, and banks be transformed into Islamic banks.

3--We Muslim women, while condemning the imperialism of the East or the West, and their domestic bases, condemn all forms of sit-ins, demonstrations and evil propaganda which oppose the goals and interests of the Islamic revolution.

4--We Muslim women of Iran express our solidarity with all the oppressed masses of the world, especially the struggling Muslim women of Palestine, the Philippines and Eritrea.

5--We Muslim women express our support for the Zoroastrian, Jewish and Christian women who cooperated with the Iranian revolution and support their proper rights.

6--We muslim women support [word indistinct] Kurdish, Arab, Balachi, Turkoman, Gilaki and other nationalities, express our solidarity with each other in achieving the Islamic goals, and condemn any form of disunity and racial discrimination.

7--We Muslim women demand that by pursuing a cultural revolution and the enactment of revolutionary instructive programs the glorious Islamic revolution of Iran may continue, so that with dependance upon Almighty God the unitarian society may come into being.

8--We Muslim women demand that all monetary, value-based distinctions such as wealth, position, employment, beauty and power which destroy the uniformity of society and create distinctions be eradicated, and standards of piety which are the foundation of a unitarian society replace them through an instructive revolutionary program.

9--We Muslim women believe in the Islamic framework which is the belief in God and safeguarding the results of the blood of the martyrs and demand that type of instructive and revolutionary program so that the rest of the struggling and self-sacrificing sisters of the country can follow consciously and by their own choice the same path.

10--We Muslim women demand a ban on the importing and manufacturing of ornamental and decorative consumer items because such items are the manifestations of the Satanic regime and distract society from Islamic piety.

11--We Muslim women demand that radio and television, newspapers and magazines place themselves on the path to the realization of the goals of the Islamic revolution and use their position for the progress of the cultural revolution for the sake of the continuation of the Islamic revolution.

12--As there seems to be some disparity between the enlightenment of women in the process of the revolution and the present regulations concerning the station of women, we Muslim women thus emphatically demand the inclusion of our rights in the constitution in accordance with the progress of women at the moment and in future. In this respect, we propose that in order to find a religious answer to this problem a council be formed, composed of progressive religious leaders and thinkers, whether brothers or sisters, and that it present its findings as soon as possible to the constituent assembly so that they might be included in the constitution.

13--We Muslim women demand the active participation of women in all dimensions of life in the country, especially in decision-making centers such as the legislative bodies, the constituent assembly, the Majlis and also local councils, factories, provincial and regional councils, and so forth.

14--We Muslim women demand that programs be drafted for the active participation of women in all dimensions of society in such a way that the family circle which, according to the sayings of (?the Koran) is the foundation of love, devotion and serenity and the cradle for the upbringing of children, might not be harmed. In this regard, as a short-term policy, we propose that the hours of work of toiling working women, employees, teachers and university professors, as a service toward their well-being, be arranged by paying due consideration to their family situation.

15--We emphatically demand a ban on showing any films and plays and also the closure of any satanic centers which use women as a means for spreading corruption and misleading the young generation.

[Signed] The Islamic Republic Party. Committee for the Celebration of Women's Day.

KHOMEYNI COMMENTS ON WORK SLOWDOWNS, STOPPAGES

LD171324 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 17 May 79 LD

[Text] Workers and owners of brick kilns in Tehran and its suburbs have met the Iman Khomeyni in Qom and, while congratulating him on the Islamic Republic and expressing condolences on the matrydom of Professor Motahhari, presented donations for housing the underprivileged to the exalted leader.

The imam, in reply to the group's remarks that certain seditionist and conspiratorial individuals are forcing them to engage in a work slowdown or work stoppage, said: We ask these people, who come to you with different faces and who do not let you do your job: What do you want for the weak, for those who do not have a home and cannot get a house? What do you do for those living in hovels around Tehran?

The imam added: You should ask them: Gentlemen, you, who have come to this factory telling the workers not to work, do you provide any money for not working? During the imam's remarks a worker said: Yes, they pay us money as well.

The imam said: Tell them, the money which is in your pocket is money that has come from the United States or the Soviet Union. This money is their money that has been poured into your pockets. Imam Khomeyni added: If you kiln owners have good will there should also be resistance within you; you should also be sympathetic toward the weak. Bear in mind, when you are sitting in your comfortable homes, that someone with a family of seven or eight is enduring the cold of winter and the heat of the summer in some hovel. You should work hard for such people. God willing, by maintaining this humanity and cooperative spirit you will progress and be successful.

Imam Khomeyni also referred to the late Modarres and said: He was the man about whom Malek-O-Sho'ara [poet-laureate with the pen name of Bahar] said no one like him has ever existed since the time of the Mongols. In other words, the late Modarres was a man who resisted in bullying Reza Khan, a spiritual man with fewer clothes on his back than most people and who used to wear canvas. This man stood up against the might of Reza Khan; he attacked the Majlis so viciously that he prevented Reza Khan from doing anything. While Reza Khan's agents were shouting long live, long live, in unison, he stood up and shouted: Death to him!

KHOMEYNI HOLDS TALKS WITH FOREIGN MINISTER

LD171710 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 17 May 79 LD

[Text] Imam Khomeyni this morning received Foreign Minister Yazdi and General Imanian in Qom separately, and held talks with each on current issues.

EBRAHIM YAZDI RECEIVES DPRK AMBASSADOR

LD172154 Tehran in English to Europe 2000 GMT 17 May 79 LD

[Text] The North Korean ambassador in Iran met with Foreign Minister Yazdi yesterday afternoon. At this meeting, relations between Iran and North Korea were discussed.

TEHRAN EXTENDS BIRTHDAY GREETINGS TO KHOMEYNI

LD172156 Tehran in English to Europe 2000 GMT 17 May 79 LD

[Text] Iran's Islamic revolution leader, Imam Khomeyni, today celebrated his 79th birthday. The Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran joins the nation in wishing the imam a very happy birthday.

KHAQANI ANNOUNCES DISSOLUTION OF DISRUPTIVE GROUPS

ID171800 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 17 May 79 LD

[Text] Ayatollah Mohammad Taher Shobeyr Khaqani, Khuzestan religious leader, while expressing his regret over the incident which took place last Sunday in the region, announced that, with the exception of those operating under government supervision, be they Arabs, Persians or Kurds, no one else is authorized to carry arms in revolutionary committees or interfere in the civic affairs or the security of the city.

Consequently, all committees, centers and groups, which tend to disrupt order to people's freedom, are thus dissolved. Only those groups that do not interfere in Khorramshahr's security may continue their operations; since, in accordance with the tenets of Islam, any group which does not take action against public interests in an Islamic government may operate in freedom.

Ayatollah Khaqani's message, made available to us by the Khorramshahr governor's office, also states that the effective operation of responsible government officials in the security of the region must be supported and consolidated.

VENEZUELAN MINISTER VISITS TEHRAN, RETURNS TO BAGHDAD

JN171741 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1720 GMT 17 May 79 JN

[Text] Tehran, 17 May--Venezuelan Energy and Mines Minister Humberto Calderon Berti met at Mahrabad International Airport here today with Iranian Minister of Economic Affairs and Finance 'Ali Ardalan.

In an exclusive statement to the INA correspondent at the end of the meeting, which lasted about 1 hour, Berti said that he discussed with the Iranian side matters related to OPEC and its plans to help the developing countries. He explained that among these matters is the question of linking oil prices with the inflation averages in the industrial oil-consuming countries in a way that guarantees the interests of the oil-producing countries.

The INA correspondent has learned that the Iranian side welcomed in principle the proposals made by the Venezuelan minister and that agreement was reached to continue the contacts to discuss the issue in a detailed manner, particularly at the proposed OPEC conference next month.

Berti delivered a private message from the Venezuelan president to the Iranian Government presenting congratulations on the revolution and dealing with relations between the two countries.

The Venezuelan minister returned to Baghdad at the end of his short visit to Iran.

ARAK CITIZENS STAGE DEMONSTRATION AT OFFICER'S FUNERAL

ID171748 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 17 May 79 ID

[Excerpt] The following statement was issued today by the inhabitants of Arak:

In the name of God, today was a public holiday in Arak with most of the inhabitants staging an impressive demonstration in connection with a funeral ceremony for a struggler officer.

Second Lieutenant 'Ali Asghar Naseripur, commander of Arak Gendarmerie Garrison, shot yesterday in a dastardly manner by counterrevolutionaries, died on the way to the hospital. He had gone to one of Arak villages and had managed to settle differences between some farmers and thus prevent further confrontation.

COUNTERREVOLUTIONARIES ATTACK KARANAD COMMUNICATIONS STATION

LD171328 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 17 May 79 LD

[Text] The Central Committee of the Islamic revolution in Kermanshahan Province reported to PARS that a number of counterrevolutionary thugs had attacked the microwave communications station in Karanad district last night wereupon the committee and strike group of the Revolutionary Guards dispatched 60 Revolutionary Guards to the site of the incident, and the group succeeded in clearing the district of the attackers. These operations were concluded at 0500 today.

YAZD JUDICIARY WARNS FIVE TO SURRENDER

LD171630 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 17 May 79 LD

[Text] This announcement has been issued by the judiciary of the Islamic revolution of the Province of Yazd:

In the name of the Almighty, the following persons are warned to give themselves up to the judiciary of the Islamic revolution of the Province of Yazd within 10 days at the most:

Dr Sa'id Mo'tameni-Tabatabai, former governor general of Yazd;

Rahmatollah Khorramzadeh, head of the disolved SAVAK of Yazd; Seyyed Isma'il Tehran-Far, head of the internal security section of SAVAK in Yazd;

Kazem Saffarnejat, former head of the internal security section of SAVAK in Yazd;

Nasrollah Ra'isi-Yazdi, employee of the dissolved SAVAK of Yazd.

NEYRIZ COURT RELEASES FOUR ON BAIL

LD171632 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 17 May 79 LD

[Text] According to a report from PARS, the Islamic Revolutionary Court of Neyriz in Fars Province heard the cases against four accused persons connected with the previous regime, and released them on bail. The persons were: Major 'Abbas Tahmasbi, Mokhtar Qasemi, Haydar Tajvidi and Hoseyn (Tarazi).

COURT ACQUITS FORMER GENDARMERIE CHIEF IN BEHBAHAN

LD161812 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 16 May 79 LD

[Text] At noon yesterday, the Behbahan Islamic Revolutionary Court concluded its investigation into the dossiers of three people accused in the provincial town of Behbahan; two of the accused were Col 'Abdol Majid Zehtabchi, former commander of the gendarmerie regiment of Behbahan, and Mohammad Qoli 'Azimpur, former deputy in the governor's office of Behbahan.

After 12 hours of deliberation, the court delivered its verdict in respect of the aforementioned accused as follows:

Col 'Abdo Majid Zehtabchi, commander of the gendarmerie regiment in Behbehan, being only a member of the Behbehan Security Council and having committed no other offence and having regard to the good opinion entertained of him by the gendarmerie regiment staff, was acquitted of the charge, and the court merely declared him unfit to serve as a commander.

The second accused, Maj Hoseyn Janani, former commander of the Behbahan police station, was sentenced to 3 months' imprisonment.

The third accused, Mohammad Qoli 'Azimpur, former deputy in the governor's office of Behbehan, received the imam's pardon, since he had not taken part in the slaying of the revolutionary fighters of Behbehan, but had committed only minor sins. However, the Behbehan Islamic Revolutionary Court declared him unfit to serve as deputy in the governor's office at Behbehan.

TEHRAN COMMENTS ON SENATE'S CONDEMNATION OF EXECUTIONS

LD180956 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0730 FMT 18 Apr 79 LD

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] According to a UPI dispatch from Washington, the U.S. Senate last night unanimously condemned the executions of the minions and traitors of the overthrown monarchical regime in Iran and warned that if the execution of such criminals continues, the close and cordial relations between Iran and the United States will be seriously jeopardized. In approving the resolution by voice vote the Senate has, so to speak, expressed its revulsion over the execution of the minions of the overthrown regime, which--to quote U.S. senators--has been conducted without observing correct legal procedures. A number of senators expressed the hope that the Senate's step will result in a world protest.

The Senate's step is apparently one of the first public condemnations of the revolutionary executions of criminals in Iran by a branch of government in any country. The resolution approved by the Senate was sponsored by Republican Senator Jacob Javits. It is essential to point out that Senator Javits is a prominent U.S. Zionist and a close friend of Israel. Javits' wife 2 years ago was employed by an Iranian firm in the United States to supervise, so to speak, public relations.

Democratic Senator Robert Byrd also stated that he hopes that other countries will also take steps in this direction. It is essential to point out that Senator Byrd came to Iran during the last months of the government of the deposed shah, strongly defended Mohammad Reza Pahlavi and, it seems, played a role in concocting the military government. Byrd stated: The United States and other countries probably have remained silent for fear of upsetting Iran's revolutionary government and losing the flow of Iranian oil, but to continue to remain silent, no matter what these governments' reasons may be, is unconscionable.

It is essential to point out that the massacre of Iranian revolutionaries in the streets, in which the overthrown regime was so adept, apparently in Senator Byrd's thinking was an utterly humane measure.

In the meantime, the U.S. Senate welcomed Imam Khomeyni's recent decree of limiting executions in Iran.

TEHRAN COMMENTS ON CONDITIONS OF SOVIET MUSLIMS

JN172156 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 17 May 79 JN

[Unattributed commentary: "Muslims in the Soviet Union"]

[Excerpts] In the Soviet Union there are 100 nationalities, 70 languages and 17 republics which form the Union of the Soviet Socialist Republics whose population exceeds 261 million. The Muslim population in the Soviet Union is 50 million.

Let us acquaint ourselves with the life of Muslims in the Soviet Union and the most important problems from which they suffer.

Let us begin with their economic situation. The population in the Soviet Union is distributed among two main parts: The first is European and industrialized. Here are the most important factories and industries in the Soviet Union. The second part is Asiatic and backward, and it is in this part where the majority of the Muslims live. In this part are the most important natural resources and agricultural wealth.

Hence, manpower is to be found in abundance among the Muslim peoples, while the main factories are in the European part. This has led to labor unemployment in the Asiatic part, and a shortage of manpower in the European part.

Regarding the social situation, in answer to a question by a Western correspondent, a Muslim from Uzbekistan said: We are Muslims and we shall continue to be Muslims. This is a question that is not and will not be a subject for compromise. In answer to another question he said: The payment of az-zakat and al-khums [forms of Muslim taxes] are prohibited in the Soviet Union. Workers are harassed and obstacles are placed in their way if they should want to fast. It is said that fasting would affect the workers' productive capacity.

The Muslim from Uzbekistan continued: Once an official in a factory learned that the majority of the workers in his factory were Muslims and that they were fasting as it was the month of Ramadan. The official went down to the factory floor and asked all the factory workers to assemble and said to them: We shall now separate the workers who are fasting from those who do not want to fast. The latter will get a salary increase. When the separation process began, the factory official was surprised to find that all the workers chose to fast and to obey God.

Regarding pilgrimage, the Muslim said that this duty used to be prohibited. In recent times, only a small, nominal number of Muslims are allowed to go on pilgrimage every year.

Regarding the performance of rites, it suffices to know that the 50 million Muslims have only 200 mosques among them. These are distributed as follows: 146 mosques in central Asia; 27 mosques in Daghestan; 13 mosques in the Tartar regions; and in Azerbayjan, where there are more than 4 million Muslims, there are only 16 mosques. Recent statistics indicate that 77 percent of the men are religious, and most of them are young men who fill the mosques, while 80 percent of the women are religious.

There are organizations which specialize in disseminating propaganda against religion and the religious. These organizations operate in all quarters. Teachers constantly receive instructions from these organizations informing them that the principal objective of the Soviet school is to prepare the communist man by keeping him away from noncommunist ideas represented by religion.

Regarding the political situation, a report says that the Russian and Slav elements control the country's government, leave only a very small number of positions to other nationalities, and it is the former who make the important decisions. They ask other republics to comply with these decisions.

KEYHAN WRITES ON ACTIVITIES OF CIA, PENTAGON 'SPIES'

LD121950 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 12 May 79 LD

[Press review]

[Text] KEYHAN has devoted its main feature to the activities of the CIA and the Pentagon spies in Iran. In a report prepared by a group of the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance employees, the paper exposes their activities in Iran: It says:

Following research by a number of employees of the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance in the records and files of the Iranian organization for investments and economic and technical assistance, the files revealed the details of loans, grants and investments carried out by former governments in Iran. The investigations carried out by these employees, and published in a report entitled "Imperialists' Loans," disclose that foreign experts working in Iran under the pretext of supervising plans were actually engaged in espionage activities. These individuals, taking advantage of the facilities made available to them by the regime under the shah, were engaged in doing research on ethnology and sociology, so that by familiarizing themselves with people's liberal behavior they could assist the Pentagon and the CIA when the time came in order to crush the national liberation movement. The report adds that U.S. loans to Iran were a means of military, political and economic captivity for Iran.

ETTELA'AT CARRIES PROVINCIAL REPORT ON 'PLOT'

LD172030 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1735 GMT 17 May 79 LD

[Text] ETTELA'AT carries an item among its reports from the provinces entitled: "Plot by (Jaf) Kurds."

The paper writes: Yesterday and last night, a number of refugees affiliated with the Iraqi Democratic Party of Kurdistan contacted the ETTELA'AT correspondent in Shiraz to express their support for the revolution and the leadership of Imam Khomeyni and announced that Mr Jalal Talabani is their leader.

In a letter signed by 230 refugees, which was handed over to the paper's correspondent, the group says: A group of (Jaf) Kurds, which is among the refugees in Iran, under the pretext that the new Iranian Government has decided to (?crush) the Kurds, has joined their [word indistinct] and thus caused conflict in Iranian Kordestan. Then, elements collaborating with the Kurds affiliated to Barzani, being members of SAVAK at one stage, went to Iraq last year and fought against Talabani insurgents; these elements returned to Iran a few days ago and then moved their families and their associates to Sar-e Pol-e Zahab and Paveh in order to stage rebellion. We call on the government to refuse to contact (?them). Needless to say, these elements are collaborators of the former regime and the CIA.

NVOI: U.S. TRYING TO PREVENT SPREAD OF IRANIAN REVOLUTION

TA142008 (Clandestine) National Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran 2100 GMT 5 May 79 TA

[Unattributed commentary: "The Dangerous Plans of the Pentagon"]

[Text] Dear compatriots, after having lost major U.S. military interests in the Persian Gulf, the Pentagon is hastily expanding its presence in this area in order to protect globally important strategic and oil interests.

The military efforts of the United States are primarily dependent upon the treacherous deals of As-Sadat and Begin under the cover of protection and pressure from Washington.

With the intention of exerting military pressure upon the Arab countries--presently 18 in number--which have severed their diplomatic relations with Egypt, the Pentagon is hastily increasing its military forces in the Persian Gulf and in the Arabian Sea.

The show of military force in the Persian Gulf against the Arab countries is at the same time a threat to the revolutionary Government of Iran, which put an end to the U.S. presence in our country.

Despite global protests and protests by (?social) circles in Asia, the United States is busy deploying its 5th fleet in the Indian Ocean and has concentrated approximately 15 huge warships, including aircraft carriers, in the Arabic Sea and in the Persian Gulf.

All these attempts prove that the United States has decided to assume the role of gendarme in the Persian Gulf and in the Arabian Peninsula in order to (?crush) the national liberation movements there, a role which the U.S. played during the regime of the defunct shah. The U.S. is using the [word indistinct] of Egypt and Israel to participate in this role.

Egypt has sent several thousand members of its armed forces to assist the detested regime of Hasan [word indistinct], a servant of the United States, to (?suppress) the struggle of the patriots in that country.

Egyptian and Israeli intelligence organizations are presently commissioned by the United States to devise sabotage plans against the Arabian progressive regimes and also to help the SAVAKists and the elements supporting the traitor shah who fled Iran and is busy forming an antirevolutionary center to fight against the new regime in Iran.

The leaders of Saudi Arabia, who also severed their country's diplomatic relations with Egypt, are more than ever assessing the validity of their policy of cooperation with the United States, which has led to excessively equipping the armed forces of Saudi Arabia with U.S. weapons and to an increased dependency on U.S. imperialism. King Khalid of Saudi Arabia and Prince Fahd, the heir to the throne, (?think) that this kind of policy resulted in the revolution in Iran and led to the complete toppling of the royal regime. However, the regime of Saudi Arabia still continues to sit on the fence and tries not to endanger its relationship with other Arab countries even though it is accepting arms from the United States.

The Pentagon (?announced) the creation of an army of 100,000 men for the purpose of military intervention in troubled parts of the world when the interests of the United States are threatened. The name of this part of the world has already been disclosed. The center of this army is in the Persian Gulf and it encompasses the territory between Iraq and Oman. It is exactly in this area that the Pentagon is rotating and showing its military forces. Washington intends to dispatch by air to this area military forces equipped with tanks and rockets.

The goal the United States pursues through all its antihuman attempts is to prevent Iran's revolution from spreading throughout the oil producing countries in the Persian Gulf region, an action that could endanger the imperialism of the United States.

The creation of a strike force to be dispatched to the Persian Gulf is the continuation of the Pentagon's reactionary plans, the aim of which is to strengthen its role as gendarme in the Persian Gulf region.

There should be no doubt that these plans will not have satisfactory results, just as they were defeated in Vietnam and in Iran.

NVOI CONDEMNS ATTEMPTS TO DAMAGE RELATIONS WITH USSR

TA162228 (Clandestine) National Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran 1730 GMT 16 May 79 TA

[Text] Dear compatriots, to the same degree that the Iranian nation is taking resolute and decisive steps to safeguard the accomplishments of the revolution and its development and progress, the enemies of the revolution, from the remnants of the bloodthirsty former regime to reactionaries and opportunists, and lackeys of CIA and SAVAK, increase their futile endeavors. One day they create fratricidal clashes in Kordestan, Gonbad and Naqadeh, by taking advantage of the national and religious feelings of the people, and the next day, by the hands of stooges and political ignoramuses, they aim bullets at prominent figures such as Professor Motahhari.

What especially attracts attention in these circumstances is that the remnants of the regime, SAVAKists and their imperialist masters, are not satisfied with creating these crimes. Following any of these crimes a wave of demagogic propaganda, distortions and lies is created by these lackeys of the joint forces of reaction and neocolonialism, to sow discord and [word indistinct] among the people and forces loyal to the revolution. For example, lately insulting communism or the Soviet Union has become a job and an official assignment for a group of these people. In the past, the former shah's regime, the SAVAKist torturers and their mercenary writers, by following their teachers and inspirers across the ocean in the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, used the bogey of communism to crush any antidespotic movement. One day His Eminence Ayatollah Taleqani said in one of his speeches that the SAVAK and police apparatus of the former shah even accused him of being a Marxist.

The aim of the bloodthirsty shah and his SAVAKists and hireling [word indistinct] agents in creating this tumult and inventing the so-called communist threats and propaganda against our northern neighbor was obvious. Their aim was to crush any national and antidictatorial movement, and any democratic struggle and national and human crusade.

Even though that satanic regime has been overthrown through the lofty efforts of the Iranian nation and the leadership of His Eminence Imam Khomeyni, regrettably there are still some people who resort to the same ugly and indecent methods of the propagandists of the former regime to develop their narrowminded political aims or implement the obvious and hidden plans of the dirty agents associated with the former regime and U.S. imperialism. One point should be declared with frankness and that is: Ideological struggle based on discussion and criticism and creative give and take and logical rationalism is not only useful but necessary. However, ideological struggle based on justice, logic and rationalism is one thing, but the ruminations of the remnants of the stooges and CIA propagandists, Western plundering monopolies and capital snatchers and billionaire plunderers of our country, is another thing.

If there are certain persons or groups who think that by fabricating lies, such as those which they spread among the workers of the Esfahan steel factory, against communism or the Soviet Union, or by imposing the childish slogan "Death to the Soviet Union," they can divert the general public's attention from the facts of life, they are gravely mistaken. The Iranian people have not and will never consent to such narrowminded and completely erroneous slogans like "Death to the Soviet Union," because these people have such political awareness and [word indistinct] that they know the Soviet Union, Iran's next door neighbor, was always in the defense front of the national and antidespotic movement of the Iranian nation, and defended the struggles and crusades of the Iranian nation and its attempts at sound economic and social progress and development and liberation from the domination of economic and military imperialism.

The people will not say "Death to the Soviet Union," just as they do not and will not say, for example, death to West Germany or death to the U.S., because if the Iranian people oppose the U.S. today, this opposition is not against the U.S. nation, but rather against U.S. imperialism. The national and progressive forces of our country desire equal relations based on respect and mutual interests with all countries, and this benefits our country. The basis and criterion of our good relations with any country, regardless of its political and governmental institutions, is respect for the sovereignty of the Iranian nation, respect for its interests and independence, respect for the revolution and the revolutionary achievements of the Iranian nation. If, according to the testimony of friends and foe, the Soviet Union always sincerely supported the national, progressive and antidespotic movement of the Iranian nation under the leadership of Imam Khomeyni and stretched and continues to stretch a hand of brotherhood and friendship toward our nation, how can fabricating lies, malicious accusations and completely false and damaging blogans, even contrary to neighborliness, be defined other than as a counterrevolutionary conspiracy begun by remnants of the former regime, SAVAKists and masked and unmasked agents of imperialism. Creating neighborly and friendly relations and economic, cultural and political cooperation on the basis of Iran's interests and respect for the independence and sovereignty of our nation with all countries, especially with neighbors, is to the benefit of the Iranian nation and our Islamic Republic. The potentiality should not be given to individuals or groups to strike at the vital interests of our country to maintain their narrowminded advantages [words indistinct] and to implement the intrigues of the former regime.

KHOMEYNI OPENS ISLAMIC BANK, FIRST ACCOUNT

Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 29 Apr 79 p 3 WA

[Text] In a written order issued to the founding committee of the Islamic Bank of Iran, Imam Khomeyni, leader of the Islamic revolution of Iran, gave permission to establish the Islamic Bank of Iran, for the bank to begin work, for it to set up a central office, and for it to open an account for him.

In celebrating the founding of this bank, a responsible official of this bank stated: "The founding committee has authorized the first account of this bank to be opened in the name of the leader of the Islamic revolution of Iran."

This official added that all regulations for this bank had already been compiled and, in accordance with instructions of the legal office of the Central Bank, the charter had been issued for the Islamic Bank, and it had been coordinated with the other banks of the country.

The matter of issuing permission to establish this bank was studied yesterday afternoon in the High Council for Money and Credit of the Central Bank.

The said official added that members of the founding committee of the Islamic Bank were named last Thursday afternoon after they met with Iman Khomeyni to present a progress report on the founding of this bank. Also at this meeting were Ayatollah Shari'at Madari and Ayatollah Golpaygani.

On the occasion of the opening of the central office of the Islamic Bank, Ayatollah Shari'at Madari issued written permission to establish an Institute of Islamic Propaganda.

In conclusion, he also ordered that measures be taken to open a branch office of the Islamic Bank in Qom.

LATE REPORT: COUNTERREVOLUTIONARIES, POLICE CLASH IN MASJED SOLEYMAN

LD181218 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 18 May 79 LD

[Text] PARS reports from Ahvaz that an attack was launched this morning by a counter-revolutionary group on the police headquarters and the Revolutionary Guards in Masjed Soleyman. When it was resisted by the police force and the Revolutionary Guards, the attackers deployed themselves in a part of Masjed Soleyman and continued firing. Following this counterrevolutionary action the responsible authorities warned the counterrevolutionaries to hand over their weapons and to surrender immediately.

An informed official told PARS in Ahvaz today: Following this incident, counter-revolutionaries in Masjed Soleyman have been sharply warned that if they continue their attacks they will be dealt with severely.

At present, the city is under the control of law enforcement officials and Revolutionary Guards.

According to the same official, counterrevolutionaries attacked a car moving a patient to a hospital and, as a result of their shoot-out, four of the passengers in the car were wounded, one of whom is in serious condition.

INDIA

ALTERNATIVE FUEL TO ENRICHED URANIUM TO BE DEVELOPED

BK170924 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 17 May 79 BK

[Text] The chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission, Dr H. N. Sethna, has said the scientists in the country are making vigorous attempts to develop indigenously a substitute fuel for the enriched uranium. In an interview with an Indian news magazine, he said this would end dependence on foreign sources once and for all.

Dr. Sethna said our scientists will develop a fuel to substitute for the enriched uranium from the United States within 3 years.

On the functioning of the Tarapur plant, he said the system is performing fairly well.

ALGERIA WILLING TO SUPPLY CRUDE OIL TO INDIA

BK171024 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 17 May 79 BK

[Text] Algeria is prepared to supply India as much crude oil as it needs. This was stated by the secretary of the Algerian Ministry of Transport, Mr (Ismail Khadouj), while talking to newsmen in Calcutta today. He said his country has a surplus of crude oil and is ready to provide India with as much as it requires. The balance of trade at present between the two countries is in favor of India, and Algeria, he said, is interested to supply her crude oil to bridge the gap. He said his country is also in a position to supply phosphate fertilizer. Algeria is seeking India's help in extending its railway tracks and also for the manufacture of locomotives. The possibility of starting air services between India and Algeria at an early date is also being examined by the two countries, he added.

KUNDU RETURNS FROM MIDEAST TOUR

BK171545 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 0832 GMT 17 May 79 BK

[Text] Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs Samarendra Kundu said in Bombay on 16 May that there was great appreciation of India's role in the nonaligned movement, especially the policy pursued in West Asia, reports PTI. The minister also found a great measure of similarity of views on most of the international issues between the gulf countries and India though there was a slight difference of emphasis in certain respects.

Kundu, who arrived in Bombay after a week's successful tour of Bahrain, Tunisia and Oman, told newsmen at the airport that on the question of West Asia he had explained India's stand that the Egypt-Israel treaty fell short of a comprehensive solution and there could not be peace and stability in the area without solving the Palestinian problem.

Kundu stated India would not favour the idea of expelling Egypt from the nonaligned movement as it would not serve any useful purpose. The minister said there was great scope for furthering our economic relations with the gulf countries. According to the minister, Tunisia had agreed to open its mission in New Delhi.

VAJPAYEE ON REPORTS OF PRC-BUILT HIGHWAY IN KASHMIR

BK180846 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 18 May 79 BK

[Text] External Affairs Minister Vajpayee said in the Rajya Sabha today that press reports saying that the Chinese are building a parallel road to the Karakoram highway in the Pakistan-occupied Kashmir have come to the notice of the government. But as there is no authentic information of the report the question of treating of the matter with Pakistan and China does not arise at present.

Mr Vajpayee said that India views the construction of the Karakoram highway as illegal, and India's views have already been conveyed to both Pakistan and China.

VAJPAYEE COMMENTS ON NEW UGANDAN GOVERNMENT, TRAVEL PLANS

BK181119 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1000 GMT 18 May 79 BK

[Excerpts] External Affairs Minister Vajpayee told the upper house of Parliament today that formal recognition has not yet been accorded to the new government in Uganda, but the Indian high commissioner in Kampala has maintained contact with the new authorities.

In a written reply, Mr Vajpayee said India is continuing to watch the situation there. A decision will be taken as and when it is considered appropriate and necessary, he added.

Mr Vajpayee told the house that India welcomed the reported gesture of the Pakistani authorities to associate Indian Sikhs with the administration and upkeep of the holy Gurdwaras [Sikh worshipping place] in Pakistan.

In a written reply, he said that the government has seen various reports of the gesture shown by the Pakistan president, Gen Ziaul Haq, while talking to a group of visiting India pilgrims in April this year. Mr Vajpayee said no discussions in the matter have yet taken place officially between the two countries.

In another written reply, Mr Vajpayee informed the house that he proposes to visit three or four countries of West Asia, including Egypt, the United Arab Emirates and Kuwait during the latter half of this month.